HOUSE No. 754

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Natalie M. Blais

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act supporting farm diversification and sustainability.

PETITION OF:

Name:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Natalie M. Blais	1st Franklin	1/18/2023
Vanna Howard	17th Middlesex	3/5/2023

HOUSE No. 754

By Representative Blais of Deerfield, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 754) of Natalie M. Blais and Vanna Howard relative to agricultural preservation restrictions. Environment and Natural Resources.

The Commonwealth of Alassachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court (2023-2024)

An Act supporting farm diversification and sustainability.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23 of chapter 20 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2018

Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 84, the words "a maximum of 5 years

duration" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- a period of at least 1 year.

4 SECTION 2. Subsection (b) of said section 23 of said chapter 20, as so appearing, is

hereby amended by adding the following 3 sentences:- Notwithstanding the foregoing, the

department may approve a special permit for a trial period of 1 year to evaluate a proposal for

nonagricultural activities. If a special permit is issued to a permit holder for a 1-year trial period

under this subsection, the department shall notify the permit holder of the department's decision

to renew, revoke or amend the permit within 1 year of the date of issuance. If the department

fails to notify the permit holder within 1 year of the date of issuance of a special permit of its

decision to renew, revoke or amend the special permit, the special permit shall automatically be

renewed for a period of 5 years.".

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SECTION 3. Said section 23 of said chapter 20, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 112, the words "for a special permit authorized in subsection (b)" and inserting in place thereof the following words:- any landowner of land subject to an agricultural preservation restriction who is subject to and aggrieved by a decision of the department relative to a special permit authorized under subsection (b), including a decision regarding the renewal, revocation, amendment to or length of a special permit".