

# SENATE . . . . . No. 2520

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—  
In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)  
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SENATE, February 6, 2020.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the Senate Bill to modernize certain provisions of the agricultural preservation restriction program (Senate, No. 527); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered [Amendment Bill Number (Truncated)].

For the committee,  
Michael J. Rodrigues

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act to modernize certain provisions of the agricultural preservation restriction program.

*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  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 84, the words “a maximum of 5 years  
3 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  
5 hereby amended by adding the following 3 sentences:- Notwithstanding the foregoing, the  
6 department may approve a special permit for a trial period of 1 year to evaluate a proposal for  
7 nonagricultural activities. If a special permit is issued to a permit holder for a 1-year trial period  
8 under this subsection, the department shall notify the permit holder of the department’s decision  
9 to renew, revoke or amend the permit within 1 year of the date of issuance. If the department  
10 fails to notify the permit holder within 1 year of the date of issuance of a special permit of its  
11 decision to renew, revoke or amend the special permit, the special permit shall automatically be  
12 renewed for a period of 5 years.”.

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