

**SENATE . . . . . No. 693**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Benjamin B. Downing***

*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 relative to the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Benjamin B. Downing</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>2nd Berkshire</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. Downing, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 693) of Benjamin B. Downing, Gailanne M. Cariddi, Tricia Farley-Bouvier, Paul W. Mark and other members of the General Court for legislation relative to the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority. Housing.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority.

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

1 Chapter 495 of the Acts of 2002 is hereby amended, in section 1, by striking out the first  
2 paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

3 There shall be in Berkshire county, referred to in this act as the county, a public body  
4 politic and corporate to be known as the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, referred  
5 to in this act as the authority. The authority shall be managed, controlled and governed by a  
6 board of 7 members of which a simple majority shall constitute a quorum. Two members shall be  
7 appointed by the Berkshire regional planning commissioner, referred to in this act as the  
8 commission, with 1 of those members appointed for an initial term of 1 year and 1 of those  
9 members appointed for an initial term of 3 years. Two members shall be appointed by the mayor  
10 of the city of Pittsfield, with 1 member appointed for an initial term of 1 year and 1 member  
11 appointed for an initial term of 2 years. One member shall be appointed by the mayor of the city  
12 of North Adams with an initial term of 1 year. Two members shall be appointed by the director

13 of the department of housing and community development, 1 for an initial term of 2 years, and 1  
14 with an initial term of 3 years. Successors shall be appointed in the same manner and by the  
15 same appointing entity for terms of 3 years from the expiration of the terms of the original  
16 appointees. The mayor of cities or the board of selectmen of towns in the county may nominate  
17 candidates for the authority and make recommendations to the appointing entities. A vacant seat  
18 on the authority shall not remain vacant if there is a qualified person nominated for the seat. The  
19 authority's membership shall be diverse and represent towns and cities of the county. No more  
20 than 2 members of the authority may reside in the same city or town unless no other qualified  
21 persons have been nominated. Approval of an authority member shall not be withheld  
22 unreasonably.