

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 381

By Mr. Spellane of Worcester, petition of Robert P. Spellane and others relative to establishing the Massachusetts hydrogen and fuel cell collaborative. Economic Development and Emerging Technologies.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### PETITION OF:

Robert P. Spellane	Paul J. P. Loscocco
Edward M. Augustus, Jr.	John P. Fresolo
Frank I. Smizik	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MASSACHUSETTS HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL COLLABORATIVE.

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

- 1 The Commonwealth shall establish the Massachusetts Hydrogen
- 2 and Fuel Cell Institute as a joint venture among universities in
- 3 Massachusetts to serve as a focal point for research, education, and
- 4 commercialization activities in the state. Specific objectives of the
- 5 Institute include:—
- 6 (1) coordinate and strengthen hydrogen and fuel cell research
- 7 activities within the universities in Massachusetts;
- 8 (2) strengthen collaborative research and development between
- 9 universities and companies located within Massachusetts;
- 10 (3) address critical technological barriers facing the hydrogen and
- 11 fuel cell companies;
- 12 (4) strengthen existing educational programs and introduce new
- 13 curricula in Massachusetts universities to produce graduates conver-
- 14 sant in hydrogen and fuel cell technologies; and
- 15 (5) promote partnerships between Massachusetts universities and
- 16 companies to jointly demonstrate hydrogen and fuel cell technolo-
- 17 gies and attract greater amounts of federal funding to the Common-
- 18 wealth.

19 (a) The Massachusetts Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Institute will  
20 undertake collaborative research in areas deemed critical to Massa-  
21 chusetts firms, including competing for federal funding with joint  
22 proposals. It will provide access to facilities and equipment at par-  
23 ticipating universities for proprietary research under pre-negotiated  
24 terms. It will also provide independent testing and validation of  
25 products manufactured by Massachusetts firms by establishing of a  
26 central testing and evaluation laboratory. The Institute will develop  
27 new curricula for undergraduate and graduate students and will pro-  
28 vide conferences and seminars for industry executives, engineers,  
29 and scientists.

30 (b) Laboratories at Massachusetts Universities such as Boston  
31 University, University of Massachusetts, Harvard University,  
32 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University,  
33 Tufts, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, have strong Fuel Cell  
34 and Hydrogen related programs with current ties to industry, and  
35 will jointly form the basis of the Massachusetts Fuel Cell Institute.

36 (c) The Massachusetts Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Institute would  
37 thus serve mainly in a coordinating capacity, with work to be con-  
38 ducted within Research Centers located at individual Massachusetts  
39 universities with pre-existing strengths.

40 (d) Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) will lead the develop-  
41 ment of a business plan and will serve as the administrator for this  
42 Institute.

43 (e) A budget of \$2 million per year over five years will be  
44 assigned for this program. In addition, \$2 million will be provided  
45 in the first year to establish a central state-of-the-art central testing  
46 and evaluation laboratory available to all universities and companies  
47 within the Commonwealth.