

HOUSE No. 875

By Ms. Story of Amherst, petition of Ellen Story and others for legislation to establish a moratorium on genetically engineered food products. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Ellen Story Denise Provost
Barbara A. L'Italien Steven J. D'Amic
John W. Scibak

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD PRODUCTS.

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. For the purposes of this act, the words “genetically
2 engineered” shall refer to any seed, plant part or agricultural crop
3 produced, in whole or in part, using a variety of methods, as identi-
4 fied by the national organic program of the U.S. department of agri-
5 culture, used to modify genetically organisms or influence their
6 growth and development by means that are not possible under nat-
7 ural conditions or processes. Such methods include cell fusion,
8 microencapsulation and macroencapsulation, and recombinant DNA
9 technology (including gene deletion, gene doubling, introducing a
10 foreign gene, and changing the positions of genes when achieved by
11 recombinant DNA technology). Such methods do not include the use
12 of traditional breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in
13 vitro fertilization, or tissue culture.

1 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the
2 contrary, there shall be a moratorium on the further cultivation of
3 genetically engineered crops, or the production of genetically engi-
4 neered seed, until there is credible and independent scientific evi-

5 dence that these products are not harmful to the environment of the
6 Commonwealth and the health of its citizens, as determined by the
7 commissioner of agriculture.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009