

HOUSE No. 897

By Ms. Wolf of Cambridge, petition of Alice K. Wolf and others for legislation to establish the Charles River water quality commission. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Alice K. Wolf	Michael F. Rush
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	Robert K. Coughlin
Rachel Kaprielian	Pamela P. Resor
Martha M. Walz	James E. Timilty
William N. Brownsberger	Scott P. Brown
Denise Provost	Jarrett T. Barrios
Kevin G. Honan	Kay Khan
James B. Eldridge	

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHARLES RIVER WATER QUALITY COMMISSION.

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

1 Notwithstanding any general or special law or regulation to the
2 contrary, a special commission, hereafter referred to as the Charles
3 River Water Quality Commission, is hereby established for the pur-
4 pose of making an investigation and study relative to improving the
5 conditions necessary to and determining the feasibility of bringing
6 the water quality in the Charles River lower basin to a level safe for
7 swimming. The work of this commission shall support the goals
8 established in 1995 by the Clean Charles River 2005 Environmental
9 Protection Agency Initiative and assist with the objectives of the
10 swimmable Charles River working group to improve water quality
11 in the Charles River.

12 The Charles River Water Quality Commission shall study the
13 water quality of the lower Charles River basin including, but not
14 limited to:—

15 (a) the collection of existing data concerning bacteria, viral, tur-
16 bidity, clarity, and all other water quality and environmental parame-

17 ters that may affect human exposure to water from the Charles
18 River;

19 (b) the collection of existing data concerning sediment volume
20 and quality;

21 (c) identification of additional data, various technologies, engi-
22 neering solutions, or environmental solutions necessary with cost
23 estimates to decontaminate toxic sediments from the Charles River;

24 (d) identification of additional data, various technologies, engi-
25 neering solutions, or environmental solutions necessary with cost
26 estimates to improve water quality that may impact human exposure
27 to water from the Charles River, and the creation of public swim-
28 ming areas and facilities in the lower Charles River on department of
29 conservation and recreation property;

30 (e) sites for the development of public swimming areas along the
31 lower Charles River basin, taking into account current uses, public
32 transportation, and any environmental factors.

33 The Charles River Water Quality Commission shall be co-chaired
34 by the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on environ-
35 ment, natural resources and agriculture, and consist of 1 member of
36 the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house; 1
37 member of the senate appointed by the senate president; 1 member
38 appointed by the senate minority leader; 1 member appointed by the
39 house minority leader; 1 representative of the Environmental Protec-
40 tion Agency selected by the Governor from 3) nominations recom-
41 mended by the Environmental Protection Agency; 1 representative
42 from the department of conservation and recreation; 1 representative
43 from the department of environmental protection; 1 representative
44 from the Swimmable Charles River Working Group appointed by
45 the secretary of environmental affairs from 3 recommendations
46 made by the Charles River Conservancy; 1 environmental water
47 expert from a college or university appointed by the secretary of
48 environmental affairs; and 1 representative from the Charles River
49 Watershed Association appointed by the secretary of environmental
50 affairs from 3 recommendations from the Charles River Watershed
51 Association. All members shall serve without compensation for
52 service on the commission. Said commission may consult individ-
53 uals and entities outside of its membership for research, advice, sup-
54 port and other functions necessary and appropriate to accomplish the
55 commission's objectives. Said commission shall submit a report,

56 including legislative recommendations, if any, to the joint committee
57 on environment, natural resources and agriculture and the house and
58 senate committees on ways and means by February 1, 2008.