

HOUSE No. 3915

By Mr. Patrick of Falmouth, petition of Matthew C. Patrick for legislation to assess a charge on the sale of natural gas and establish an energy efficiency program in the Commonwealth. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SALE OF NATURAL GAS.

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 19 of Chapter 25 of the General Laws, as appearing in the
2 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the following
3 paragraph:—
4 Beginning on March 1, 2006 and for a period of 10 years there-
5 after the department shall require a mandatory charge per therm for
6 all consumers of natural gas in the Commonwealth, to fund energy
7 efficiency activities including, but not limited to, demand-side man-
8 agement programs. Said charge shall be in the amount of 10 mills
9 (\$0.01) per therm for calendar years 2006 through 2015, inclusive;
10 provided, however, that in authorizing such programs the department
11 shall ensure that they are delivered in a cost-effective manner uti-
12 lizing competitive procurement processes to the fullest extent practi-
13 cable. At least 20 per cent of the amount expended for residential
14 demand-side management programs by each distribution company in
15 any year, and in no event less than the amount funded by a charge of
16 1 mill per therm, shall be spent on comprehensive low-income resi-
17 dential demand-side management and education programs. A distri-
18 bution company shall not be allowed to assess any other charge
19 relative to energy efficiency programs which would exceed the
20 levels permitted herein. The low-income residential demand-side
21 management and education programs shall be implemented through
22 the low-income weatherization and fuel assistance program network
23 and shall be coordinated with all electric utility companies in the
24 Commonwealth with the objective of standardizing implementation.

25 On January 1, 2015, the division of energy resources shall, in order
26 to determine if energy investments shall continue beyond calendar
27 year 2015, review then-current market barriers, experience with
28 competitive markets, and related environmental and economic goals.
29 If said division determines that the continued operation of the pro-
30 grams delivers cost-effective, energy efficiency services, said divi-
31 sion shall file, with the clerk of the house of representatives of the
32 general court, legislation to extend for a time certain the authoriza-
33 tion contained herein for such a charge to fund energy efficiency
34 activities.