

HOUSE No. 1317

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chris Walsh

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 establishing the building code coordinating council.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Stephan Hay</i>	<i>3rd Worcester</i>
<i>Paul A. Schmid, III</i>	<i>8th Bristol</i>
<i>Carole A. Fiola</i>	<i>6th Bristol</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>

<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Randy Hunt</i>	<i>5th Barnstable</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 1317

By Mr. Walsh of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1317) of Chris Walsh and others for legislation to establish the building code coordinating council. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2196 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act establishing the building code coordinating council.

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. Section 94 of Chapter 143 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out subsection (f).

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 143 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the
4 following section:

5 Section 101. In this section, the following words and phrases shall have the following
6 meanings:

7 “Adopting agencies”, agencies, boards or commissions in the Commonwealth authorized
8 by the general court to promulgate codes and regulations that apply to the construction and
9 rehabilitation of homes, buildings, and structures in the Commonwealth.

10 “Construction codes”, collectively, the state building code and any specialized
11 construction codes, rules or regulations pertaining to building construction, reconstruction,
12 alteration, repair or demolition promulgated by and under the authority of the various boards
13 which have been authorized from time to time by the general court, including, but not be limited
14 to, the state plumbing code, electrical code, architectural barriers regulations, fire safety code,
15 fire prevention regulations, sheet metal regulations and elevator regulations.

16 “Proposed regulation”, a proposal by an adopting agency to adopt, amend or repeal an
17 existing regulation.

18 (a) There shall be in the department of public safety a building code coordinating council,
19 hereinafter referred to as the BCCC.

20 (b) The BCCC shall review, compare and coordinate all existing and proposed
21 construction codes in order to eliminate redundancy, minimize inconsistencies and conflicts and
22 maximize the efficiency of the code promulgation process.

23 (c) The BCCC shall review all proposed regulations made by adopting agencies to adopt,
24 modify or repeal a construction code, as a precursor to submission to the secretary of state
25 pursuant to chapter 30A of the General Laws.

26 (d) The BCCC shall have the authority to reject, by majority vote, proposed regulations
27 that are inconsistent, redundant, conflicting or overlapping with any other existing or proposed
28 construction codes. When a proposed regulation is rejected, the BCCC shall inform the adopting
29 agency that proposed the regulation of the specific reasons for the rejection and allow the
30 adopting agency to revise and resubmit the proposed regulation. An adopting agency may not

31 submit a proposed regulation to the secretary of state pursuant to chapter 30A of the General
32 Laws until it has been approved by the BCCC.

33 (e) Consistent with the duties set forth above, the BCCC shall establish procedures for the
34 following:

35 (1) the submission and consideration of public comment in the review process

36 (2) the process for submission and approval of proposed regulations

37 (f) The BCCC shall consist of the following members: the Chairman of the Board of Fire
38 Prevention Regulations, or a designee; the Chairman of the State Board of Electrical Examiners,
39 or a designee; the Chairman of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards, or a designee;
40 the Chairman of the State Board of Plumbers and Gasfitters, or a designee; the Commissioner of
41 the Department of Public Health, or a designee; the Chairman of the Architectural Access Board,
42 or a designee; the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, or a designee;
43 the Chairman of the Board of Elevator Regulations, or a designee; the Chairman of the Bureau of
44 Pipefitter, Refrigeration Technicians and Sprinklerfitters, or a designee; the Chairman of the
45 Board of State Examiners of Sheet Metal Workers, or a designee; the Chairman of the
46 Massachusetts Historical Commission, or a designee; and the Chairman of the Board of Boiler
47 Rules, or a designee.

48 (g) The BCCC shall elect one of its members to serve as chair and one to serve as vice-
49 chair, provided, however, that no member may serve as chair for more than two consecutive
50 terms, the length of which shall be established at the first meeting of the BCCC. The vice chair
51 shall assist the chair and serve as chair in the chair's absence.

52 (h) The chair shall be responsible for directing the tasks to be undertaken by the BCCC.
53 In addition to the tasks contained in this section, the BCCC shall identify and address such
54 additional tasks and advisory subcommittees that may be necessary for the BCCC to meet its
55 objectives.

56 (i) The BCCC shall meet at such times and places as established by the chair in order to
57 review proposed regulations efficiently.