

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3791**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Maria Duaine Robinson***

*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 a natural gas demand response pilot program.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Natalie M. Blais</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>Nika C. Elugardo</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Russell E. Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>Patrick Joseph Kearney</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>David Allen Robertson</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jon Santiago</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Angelo M. Scaccia</i>	<i>14th Suffolk</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Tommy Vitolo</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3791**

By Ms. Robinson of Framingham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3791) of Maria Duaine Robinson and others for legislation to establish a natural gas demand response pilot program within the Department of Public Utilities. Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

An Act establishing a natural gas demand response pilot program.

*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. Chapter 25 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 section 21 the following section:-

3 Section 21A. The department of public utilities shall establish and administer a program,  
4 to be known as the Natural Gas Demand Response Program, to implement a natural gas demand  
5 response program in the commonwealth. The department shall promulgate regulations as  
6 necessary to implement the program.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The department of public utilities together with the department of  
8 energy resources shall conduct a study assessing the potential for implementing a natural gas  
9 demand response program to meet winter peak demand, and shall consider, at a minimum: (i) the  
10 impact that such program might have on reducing stress on the distribution system, (ii) the value  
11 of the environmental impacts of such program; and (iii) the ratepayer impact, which the

12 departments shall consider in conjunction with the office of the attorney general in its role as the  
13 commonwealth's ratepayer advocate.

14 (b) In conducting the study, the departments shall ensure the method is consistent with  
15 published academic and industry guidance, and shall consult stakeholders with experience and  
16 expertise in power systems, natural gas pipelines, and electric and natural gas utility ratemaking  
17 regarding the proposed method, underlying assumptions and preliminary data.

18 (c) The departments shall submit to the clerks for the house of representatives and the  
19 senate, and to the house and senate chairs of the joint committee on telecommunications, utilities  
20 and energy a report on the determination of the feasibility and value of natural gas demand  
21 response to the commonwealth not later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

22 SECTION 3. The department of public utilities shall, within 30 days of the report  
23 submitted pursuant to section 2 and in consideration of the findings of the study required  
24 pursuant to said section 2, establish and implement the Natural Gas Demand Response Program  
25 pursuant to section 21A of chapter 25 of the General Laws.