

SENATE No. 1555

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Lindsay N. Sabadosa</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>	
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/12/2021</i>
<i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/14/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/15/2022</i>

SENATE No. 1555

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1555) of Joanne M. Comerford, Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Jack Patrick Lewis and Erika Uytterhoeven for legislation to provide for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Public Safety and Homeland Security.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by a special commission relative to the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons to the commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1 **Resolved**, that there shall be a special citizens commission to investigate and report on
2 what measures may be necessary and appropriate to protect the citizens of the commonwealth
3 from the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons and to contribute towards the total
4 elimination of these weapons from all countries in line with the Treaty on the Prohibition of
5 Nuclear Weapons.

6 The citizens commission shall investigate measures and make recommendations to the
7 general court that may include, but are not limited to, the divestment of funds under the control
8 of the commonwealth from companies involved in the development, production or maintenance
9 of nuclear weapons; the disqualification of a bidder or vendor involved in the development,
10 production or maintenance of nuclear weapons from an award of a state contract; and other
11 financial or legal measures that may assist or encourage the transition from nuclear weapons-

12 related jobs and activities taking place within the commonwealth to jobs and activities that
13 instead address the climate crisis and other pressing social needs.

14 The citizens commission shall consist of 11 United States citizens who are residents of
15 Massachusetts: 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 1 of
16 whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the secretary
17 of the commonwealth; 1 of whom shall be appointed by the attorney general; and 7 of whom
18 shall be appointed by the governor, of whom 6 shall be selected by the governor from a group of
19 10 individuals nominated by Massachusetts Peace Action, Inc.; provided, however, that all
20 appointments shall be made from a list of applicants who have publicly applied to the
21 commission for such appointment. The governor's office shall post all applications on a
22 webpage, established for the public knowledge and oversight of the appointment to and operation
23 of the commission. No person may be appointed to the commission who is a current or former
24 employee of any company or military installation involved in the development, production or
25 maintenance of nuclear weapons.

26 An application to serve on the commission shall state: (i) the intent of the applicant to
27 comply with and advance the policy established by this resolve; (ii) the applicant's qualifications
28 and interest in serving on the commission; (iii) the city or town in which the applicant resides;
29 and (iv) the employment of the applicant, if employed. The governor shall post the appointment
30 opportunity on the official website of the commonwealth within 30 days of the effective date of
31 this resolve. All applications for service on the commission shall be submitted within 30 days of
32 the posting of the appointment opportunity.

33 All appointments shall be made no sooner than 90 days and no later than 120 days after
34 the effective date of this resolve. In making appointments to the commission, the speaker of the
35 house of representatives, senate president, secretary of the commonwealth, attorney general and
36 governor shall consider the range of expertise needed on the commission and shall seek to ensure
37 that the commission reflects a range of geographical and demographic backgrounds. Appointees
38 to the commission shall serve without compensation.

39 The commission shall convene for its first meeting not later than 30 days after the
40 appointment of the final member of the commission. Members of the commission shall, at their
41 first meeting, elect a chair or co-chairs, as the members of the commission may decide by
42 majority vote. The commission shall meet on a regular basis to research and to gather evidence,
43 testimony and advice in the manner that the members of the commission determine is most
44 conducive to achieving the objectives of this resolve; provided, however, that commission
45 proceedings and activities shall be subject to the open meeting law established by sections 18 to
46 25, inclusive, of chapter 30A of the General Laws and shall be considered public records as
47 defined in clause Twenty-sixth of section 7 of chapter 4 of the General Laws; and, provided
48 further, that all residents of Massachusetts have a reasonable opportunity to offer their views and
49 ideas related to the policies herein to the commission.

50 The commission shall hold at least 5 public hearings in different parts of the
51 commonwealth to inform citizens and legislators about humanitarian consequences to the
52 commonwealth resulting from the use of nuclear weapons and implications of the entry into
53 force of Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, including but not limited to how jobs,
54 technologies and industries within the commonwealth currently devoted to nuclear weapons shall
55 be affected.

56 The commission shall report the results of its investigation and study and its
57 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
58 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives
59 and the clerk of the senate, with copies to the governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and
60 all members of the Massachusetts federal congressional delegation, on or before July 31, 2024.
61 The report may include recommendations for specific legislation aimed at reducing the
62 involvement of private companies and public institutions within the commonwealth in the
63 design, manufacture or maintenance of nuclear weapons and increasing their involvement in the
64 global effort to address the climate emergency and to meet other pressing social needs.