

# HELP US UPDATE THE DOVER AMENDMENT

## WHY DO WE NEED TO PASS THIS BILL?

Massachusetts State Bill H.1765 will update the Dover Amendment to make it clear that religious and educational non-profit institutions are not exempt from local wetlands bylaws and natural resource zoning protections.

### ACTION #1

#### CALL AND/OR EMAIL THE BILL SPONSORS!

[H.1765](#) Bill Sponsors:

**Representative Peter Capano** - 11<sup>th</sup> Essex  
(617) 722 - 2460  
[Peter.Capano@mahouse.gov](mailto:Peter.Capano@mahouse.gov)

**Senator Brendan P. Crighton** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Essex  
(617) 722 - 1350  
[Brendan.Crighton@masenate.gov](mailto:Brendan.Crighton@masenate.gov)

Thank them for their advocacy  
Endorse their Bill H.1765

### ACTION #2

#### CALL AND/OR EMAIL THE KEY DECISION MAKERS!

This bill has been assigned to **the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government** for consideration.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY**, contact the **Committee** by letter ([Click for Sample](#)) and/or by calling to speak to a relevant staff member ([Click for Contacts](#)):

- Identify yourself and your community
- Share that you are calling **in support of Bill H.1765**
- Advocate for the preservation and protection of the wetlands and natural resource areas across Massachusetts

### ACTION #3

#### SIGN OUR ONLINE PETITION

[Click HERE](#)

#### WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO?

**Encourage family and friends** in Massachusetts and beyond, to join you in supporting this effort.

**Consider attending the upcoming hearing** at the State House to personally share your support.

**Tuesday, July 16, 2019 11:00 AM, Room 2A**  
(Hearing date and time subject to change)

FMI: [ma.bill.h1765@gmail.com](mailto:ma.bill.h1765@gmail.com)

### WHY IS BILL H.1765 IMPORTANT TO ALL COMMUNITIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH?

The [Dover Amendment](#), passed 69 years ago in Massachusetts, allows religious and educational non-profit institutions to circumvent local natural resource zoning and wetland protections. The law needs to be updated to align with current conservation measures enacted by many municipalities to provide environmental protections. It makes no sense that the Dover Amendment allows some non-profits to be exempt from local zoning rules that would restrict any other property owner from building in fragile, environmentally sensitive areas.

### CALL TO ACTION

Please sign on to urge Massachusetts legislators to pass Massachusetts State Bill H.1765! This bill will update the Dover Amendment to make it clear that religious and educational non-profit institutions are not exempt from local wetlands bylaws and natural resource zoning protections.

This important legislation will help to preserve ecosystems and the natural beauty of our communities, big and small, across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*A sincere thank you to every Massachusetts resident who takes a few minutes to make a difference by advocating for the preservation and protection of our state's Wetlands, Natural Resource and Conservation Areas for future generations!*

# JOINT COMMITTEE OF MUNICIPALITIES & REGIONAL GOVERNMENT COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## SENATE

NAME	COUNTY	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>Rebecca L. Rausch, Chair</b>	Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex	617-722-1555	Becca.Rausch@masenate.gov
<b>Diana DiZoglio, Vice Chair</b>	First Essex	617-722-1604	Diana.DiZoglio@masenate.gov
<b>Julian Cyr</b>	Cape and Islands	617-722-1570	Julian.Cyr@masenate.gov
<b>Edward J. Kennedy</b>	First Middlesex	617-722-1630	Edward.Kennedy@masenate.gov
<b>James T. Welch</b>	Hampden	617-722-1660	James.Welch@masenate.gov
<b>Dean A. Tran</b>	Worcester and Middlesex	617-722-1230	Dean.Tran@masenate.gov

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NAME	COUNTY	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>James J. O'Day, Chair</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Worcester	617-722-2090	James.O'Day@mahouse.gov
<b>Thomas M. Stanley, Vice Chair</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex	617-722-2230	Thomas.Stanley@mahouse.gov
<b>Jonathan Hecht</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex	617-722-2140	Jonathan.Hecht@mahouse.gov
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<b>Tram T. Nguyen</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Essex	617-722-2060	Tram.Nguyen@mahouse.gov
<b>Mathew J. Muratore</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Plymouth	617-722-2014	Mathew.Muratore@mahouse.gov
<b>Michael J. Soter</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Worcester	617-722-2460	Michael.Soter@mahouse.gov

# Massachusetts State Bill H.1765

Representative Peter Capano Peter.Capano@mahouse.gov  
Senator Brendan P. Crighton Brendan.Crighton@masenate.gov

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 792 FILED ON: 1/14/2019

## HOUSE . . . . . No. 1765

### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Peter Capano*

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 to prevent nonprofit institutions from avoiding wetlands or natural resource protections under the so-called Dover Amendment.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Peter Capano</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 792 FILED ON: 1/14/2019

## HOUSE . . . . . No. 1765

By Mr. Capano of Lynn, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1765) of Peter Capano and Brendan P. Crighton relative to zoning restrictions for land or structures for religious or educational purposes. Municipalities and Regional Government.

### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to prevent nonprofit institutions from avoiding wetlands or natural resource protections under the so-called Dover Amendment.

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

- SECTION 1. The General Court hereby finds and declares that the use of the so-called
- Dover amendment by nonprofit institutions to avoid wetland or natural resource area protections
- may be harmful to the public health and environment.
- SECTION 2. Section 3 of chapter 40A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
- Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 49, the words "restrict the" and
- inserting in place thereof the following words:- restrict, other than through wetlands or natural
- resource area protections, the.

# Sample Letter to send to your Congressmen

## Support Massachusetts State Bill H.1765

Dear (Legislator Name),

As a concerned citizen, I ask you to please show your support in passing Massachusetts State Bill H. 1765, "An Act to prevent nonprofit institutions from avoiding wetlands or natural resource protections under the so-called Dover Amendment."

The Dover Amendment, passed 69 years ago in Massachusetts, allows religious and educational non-profit institutions to circumvent local natural resource zoning and wetland protections. The law needs to be updated to align with current conservation measures enacted by many municipalities to provide environmental protections. It makes no sense that the Dover Amendment allows some non-profits to be exempt from local zoning rules that would restrict any other property owner from building in fragile, environmentally sensitive areas.

Please vote in favor of Bill H.1765! This important legislation will help to preserve ecosystems and the natural beauty of our communities, big and small, across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Very truly yours,

(Name, address of concerned citizen)