

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3982**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Daniel R. Carey***

*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 relative to protecting the archaeological, geological and fossil resources of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Daniel R. Carey</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>	<i>6/4/2021</i>
<i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/9/2021</i>

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By Mr. Carey of Easthampton, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Daniel R. Carey and Jack Patrick Lewis for an investigation and study by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to access to the archaeological, geological and fossil resources in the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

Resolve relative to protecting the archaeological, geological and fossil resources of Massachusetts.

1           **Resolved**, There is hereby established a special commission on protecting the  
2 archaeological, geological, and fossil resources of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Said  
3 special commission shall review existing special and general laws, may hold hearings at various  
4 locations across the Commonwealth to obtain written and oral testimony and may consult with  
5 state and federal agencies, educators, technical experts, town boards and commissions and  
6 Native American tribes to determine if existing state laws and regulations adequately protect and  
7 provide public access to the archaeological, geological and fossil resources located within or  
8 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Said special commission shall be comprised of two  
9 members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker, whose districts have  
10 significant fossil, archaeological or geological deposits, one of which shall be from a district in  
11 western Massachusetts that includes a portion of the Connecticut river valley; two members of  
12 the Senate, appointed by the President, whose districts have significant fossil, archaeological or  
13 geological deposits, one of which shall be from a district in western Massachusetts that includes

14 a portion of the Connecticut river valley; the State Geologist or a designee; nine of whom shall  
15 be appointed by the Governor, of which one shall be a professor of archaeology from a  
16 Massachusetts college or university, one of whom shall be a recognized authority on  
17 Massachusetts geological formations who is a professor at a Massachusetts college or university,  
18 one whom shall be an environmental police officer, two who shall be members of town historical  
19 commissions within the region and four of whom shall be of Native American descent or active  
20 in efforts to preserve and educate the public about Native American living, meeting, spiritual and  
21 burial sites and ways of life; one member shall be appointed by the secretary of the  
22 commonwealth, who shall be knowledgeable of the archaeological and historic resources of the  
23 Connecticut river valley. Said special commission shall review all statutes, regulations,  
24 ordinances and practices related to these resources, including but not limited to how public and  
25 private institutions and agencies collect, preserve, display, notify the public of discoveries, return  
26 objects and sacred remains to Native American tribes and related organizations and provide  
27 public access to educate and inform the public about these archaeological, geological and fossil  
28 discoveries. Said special commission may receive funding through state appropriation or grants,  
29 federal appropriation or grants, private gifts and donations, provided, that said special  
30 commission shall file its report with the joint committee on environment, natural resources and  
31 agriculture and the clerks of the House and Senate no later than November 1, 2022.