

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**Benjamin B. Downing**

*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

**An Act creating the Commonwealth Heritage Areas Program.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Benjamin B. Downing	Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin
John D. Keenan	7th Essex

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine  
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## AN ACT CREATING THE COMMONWEALTH HERITAGE AREAS 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. The general laws are hereby amended in chapter 9 by inserting after section 26C  
2 the following section:-

3 Section 26C ½. The Commonwealth Heritage Area Program

4 (1) Definitions. As used in this section, the following term shall have the following meaning:-

5 “Commonwealth Heritage Area” shall mean a large geographical region or corridor of the  
6 Commonwealth that preserve, enhance and promote natural, recreational, cultural and scenic  
7 resources for heritage conservation, tourism and economic development. Those areas of the  
8 Commonwealth encompassed within recognized National Heritage Areas will so be designated  
9 as a Commonwealth Heritage Area.

10 (2) There shall be a Commonwealth Heritage Area Program to recognize the significant national  
11 resources such designated areas preserve and enhance, and that those resources are equally  
12 important to the heritage of the state.

13 (3) The program shall administer, in conjunction with, or in addition to, existing Federal grant  
14 programs and State programs for grants and loans to local government, municipal authority, and  
15 nonprofit organizations for community and regional projects involving the planning, acquisition,  
16 rehabilitation and development of public park, recreation and conservation areas, facilities and  
17 programs within the designated Commonwealth Heritage Area.

18 (4) The commission shall develop partnerships with the Commonwealth Heritage Areas to  
19 preserve national heritage and encourage compatible economic activities while maximizing  
20 scarce resources, including but not limited to environmental protection, heritage resource  
21 preservation, recreation, tourism promotion and signage.

22 (5) The commission shall promulgate regulations, in consultation with the executive office of  
23 energy and environmental affairs, the Massachusetts office of travel and tourism, and the  
24 Massachusetts cultural council to implement this section.

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