



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## House of Representatives

State House, Boston, 02133-1054

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## Press Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Representative Vieira files Wind Energy Relief Act**

*East Falmouth, MA* – Falmouth Selectmen are currently reviewing options for dealing with the wind turbines at the town’s wastewater treatment facility presented to the board by the Wind Turbine Options Process group. In light of the various options presented, State Representative David T. Vieira (R-East Falmouth) has filed a bill entitled the Wind Energy Relief Act.

Representative Vieira said, “I have filed the Wind Energy Relief Act as a means to open up various options for dealing with the negative impacts of improper siting of wind turbines throughout the Commonwealth. While the situation in Falmouth was the impetus for filing this bill, the relief funds would be available to all municipalities in Massachusetts.” The bill would establish two funds by transferring monies from the current Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust Fund.

One of the new funds, known as the Wind Energy Relief Fund, would be established by transferring \$15,000,000, under the jurisdiction of the Executive Office of Administration and Finance, and made available for citizens, businesses, and municipalities as compensation for losses incurred as a result of detrimental health effects or any property loss or any other adverse impact resultant from the siting of a wind turbine in the Commonwealth developed with any assistance from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

The second fund, known as the Wind Turbine Decommissioning or Relocation Fund, would be established by transferring \$7,500,000, and made available to municipalities of the Commonwealth as compensation for decommissioning or relocation of a wind turbine located within their jurisdiction.

Also in support of the legislation as a cosponsor is Representative Timothy R. Madden (D-Nantucket), who said, “This funding will provide municipalities with a level of comfort knowing that they won’t be put in the predicament that Falmouth is now facing. The issues in Falmouth must be addressed before we can move forward with other areas of the Commonwealth that may be exploring the use of wind turbines.”

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Representative Madden went on to say, “When there are unintended consequences of our efforts towards becoming more energy independent, it is important that we not only address the issues that impact the residents of the Commonwealth, but also, not prevent wind turbines that are appropriately sized for a town from becoming a useful option.”

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***Attachment: Wind Energy Relief Act***