

~~#~~ 425,000

SECTION 100. There shall be established a special commission to recommend ways for the department of conservation and recreation to improve the management, operations and asset condition of the natural, cultural and recreational resources held by the department. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (i) an examination of the current responsibilities and structures of the department and the stewardship council established in section 2 chapter 21 of the General Laws; (ii) a determination of whether departments, divisions, assets or operations of the department should be transferred to other agencies, departments, municipalities or entities, with special consideration given to urban parks and roadways; (iii) a review of the capital and operating budgets of the department with an analysis at a component level of the relationship of cost to value; and (iv) recommendations on how to: (a) improve transparency and accountability for project choice; (b) maximize returns on the commonwealth's investment in the department of conservation and recreation; and (c) improve project planning and execution, with special consideration given to the role of the stewardship council.

The commission shall be comprised of the following members, or their designees: the secretary of energy and environmental affairs, who shall serve as chair; the chairs of the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture; the secretary of transportation; the commissioner of conservation and recreation; the chair of the stewardship council; the minority leader of the house of representatives; the minority leader of the senate; and 7 persons to be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives of park friends groups, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Environmental League of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Appalachian Mountain Club, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Trust for Public Land, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the National Association of Government Employees and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Trustees of Reservations.

The commission may solicit input through public hearings and testimony.

The commission shall file a report of its findings and recommendations with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the senate and house committees on ways and means not later than December 1, 2020.

The commission shall be comprised of the following members, or their designees: the secretary of energy and environmental affairs, who shall serve as chair; the chair of the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture; the secretary of transportation; the commissioner of conservation and recreation; the chair of the stewardship council; the minority leader of the house of representatives; the minority leader of the senate; and 7 persons to be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives of park friends groups, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Environmental League of Massachusetts, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Appalachian Mountain Club, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Trust for Public Land, 1 of whom shall be a representative of the National Association of Government Employees and 1 of whom shall be a representative of the Trustees of Reservations.

The commission may solicit input through public hearings and testimony.