

By Mr. Lambert of Fall River, petition of Edward M. Lambert, Jr., for legislation to require the use of recycled newsprint. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF RECYCLED NEWSPRINT.

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

1 Chapter 21A of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding  
2 the following section: —

3 Section 18. As used in this subsection, newsprint with recycled  
4 content shall be construed to be newsprint with at least forty per  
5 cent post-consumer recycled paper.

6 The publisher of each newspaper published and distributed in  
7 this state and each newspaper published outside the state having  
8 an average daily circulation in the state of more than ten thousand  
9 shall use the following percentage of newsprint with recycled  
10 content: For the year ending December thirty-first, nineteen  
11 hundred and ninety-three, twenty per cent of the amount of  
12 newsprint used in nineteen hundred and ninety-two; for the year  
13 ending December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and ninety-four,  
14 thirty percent of the amount of newsprint used in nineteen  
15 hundred and ninety-three; for the year ending December thirty-  
16 first, nineteen hundred and ninety-five, forty per cent of the  
17 amount of newsprint used in nineteen hundred and ninety-four;  
18 for the year ending December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and  
19 ninety-six, sixty per cent of the amount of newsprint used in  
20 nineteen hundred and ninety-five; for the year ending December  
21 thirty-first, nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, eighty per cent of  
22 the amount of newsprint used in nineteen hundred and ninety-six;  
23 and for any year thereafter, ninety per cent of the amount of  
24 newsprint used in the previous year.

25 On or before January fifteenth, nineteen hundred and ninety-  
26 four, and annually thereafter, each publisher of a newspaper  
27 required under this section to use newsprint with recycled content  
28 shall submit a report to the secretary of environmental affairs  
29 stating the amount of newsprint with recycled content used for  
30 the preceding year.

31 The secretary of environmental affairs shall exempt a publisher  
32 from compliance with the provisions of this section if such  
33 publisher certifies to the commissioner that he is unable to obtain  
34 sufficient amounts of recycled-content newsprint within a  
35 reasonable time. The publisher shall provide said commissioner  
36 with the specific reason for failing to use recycled-content  
37 newspaper. A certification shall be construed to have been made  
38 in good faith if the publisher submits proof of having contacted,  
39 to obtain recycled-content newsprint, each producer of recycled-  
40 content newsprint that offered to sell recycled-content newsprint  
41 to the publisher not more than eighteen months before the  
42 certification. Such proof shall include the address, telephone  
43 number and name of each producer contacted and the corporate  
44 name of such producer, if any.