

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01110**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Robert M. Koczera***

*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 relative to early voting.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Robert M. Koczera*

*11th Bristol*

*Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.*

*34th Middlesex*

*Gloria L. Fox*

*7th Suffolk*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01110

By Mr. Robert M. Koczera of New Bedford, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 01110) of Gloria L. Fox and others relative to early voting. Joint Committee on Election Laws.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to early voting.

*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. Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after section 25A the following section:-
- 3 Section 25B. (a) Pursuant to a request, in person, by a qualified voter, as defined in section 1 of  
4 chapter 51, the local election officers and registrars of every city or town shall allow any  
5 qualified voter to cast a ballot for any biennial state election, special state election, primary,  
6 special primary or any other election vote prior to an election day as set forth in this section;  
7 including but not limited to any city or town election.
- 8 (b) Early voting shall begin in the seventh day preceding an election. The early voting period  
9 shall end on the day preceding the election.
- 10 (c) For the purposes of early voting, a polling place shall include a city hall election office and a  
11 town hall clerk's office and the registrars of each city or town shall identify and provide for

12 additional centrally-located, suitable and convenient early voting polling places within each city  
13 or town for use during the early voting period. The designation of an early voting polling place  
14 shall be made 30 days in advance of the election.

15 (d) The registrars for each city or town shall publish the location of the early voting polling place  
16 as well as the applicable dates and hours. Said publication shall occur during the week prior to  
17 the commencement of the early voting period. Notice of the dates and hours of early voting shall  
18 be sent to every newspaper listed in the in the Directory of New England Newspapers and  
19 Periodicals, located in such town or city. Notice of the dates and hours of early voting shall also  
20 be conspicuously posted in the office of the city clerk or in the principal official bulletin board of  
21 each city or town and any other public building deemed necessary.

22 (e) The state secretary shall provide a sufficient number of early voting ballots to the registrars of  
23 each city or town for use during the early voting period. The ballots shall be delivered to the  
24 registrars of each city or town 30 days in advance of the early voting.

25 (f) Early voting ballots shall be provided to each qualified voter who participates in early voting.

26 (g) Prior to the commencement of early voting, the registrars for each city or town shall prepare a  
27 list for the early voting polling place, containing the names and residences of all persons  
28 qualified to vote therein, as the same appear upon the annual register, and shall reasonably  
29 transmit the same to the election officers at every polling place designated by the registrars.

30 (h) The presiding election officer at the early voting polling location shall cause to be placed on  
31 the voting lists opposite the name of any qualified voter who participates in early voting the  
32 letters "EV" designating an early voter.

33 (i) At the end of each day during the early voting period, the presiding election officer shall  
34 separate, compile, and record early ballots cast at each polling location into the appropriate ward  
35 and precinct. The resulting list of early voters shall be updated daily and saved electronically .

36 By 5:00 P.M. on the day

37 before election day, the list shall be forwarded to the appropriate ward and precinct location.

38 (j) Sections 24, 25, 25A, 65, 66, 72, 73, and 75 shall apply to polling places during early  
39 elections.

40 (k) The ballot boxes for early voting shall be sealed and locked and maintained securely by the  
41 election officers.

42 (l) The registrars for each city or town shall designate a location for the counting of early ballots.  
43 The early voting ballots shall be opened at the close of all polling locations on election day. All  
44 totals shall be added to the totals at the relevant wards and precincts.