

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1685**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Martha M. Walz*

*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 regulating fees for solemnizing marriages.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Eileen M. Donoghue</i>	<i>First Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1685**

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1685) of Martha M. Walz and others for legislation to regulate the solemnization of certain marriages by public employees. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

An Act regulating fees for solemnizing marriages.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to regulate fees for solemnizing marriages, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

□

*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 35 of chapter 262 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the following:-

3 No public employee may provide marriage-related services, such as preuptial  
4 counseling conferences, rehearsals or other special requests during business hours at any location  
5 or at any time on public property other than parkland.

6 The total fee for lawfully solemnizing and certifying a marriage shall not exceed the fee  
7 limit fixed for solemnizing and certifying a marriage in a justice of the peace’s home community  
8 where a public employee who is also a justice of the peace solemnizes and certifies a marriage  
9 during business hours at any location or at any time on public property other than parkland.

10 The total fee for lawfully solemnizing and certifying a marriage collected by a municipal  
11 employee during business hours at any location or at any time on public property other than  
12 parkland shall be deposited with the municipality.

13 The total fee for lawfully solemnizing and certifying a marriage collected by a county  
14 employee during business hours at any location or at any time on public property other than  
15 parkland shall be deposited with the county.

16           The total fee for lawfully solemnizing and certifying a marriage collected by a state  
17 employee during business hours at any location or at any time on public property other than  
18 parkland shall be deposited in the general fund.