

HOUSE No. 1792

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Chynah Tyler

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the composition of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Chynah Tyler</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>1/17/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 1792

By Representative Tyler of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1792) of Chynah Tyler relative to the composition of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1903 OF 2021-2022.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act relative to the composition of the Victim and Witness Assistance Board.

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 4 of chapter 258B, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended
2 by striking the first paragraph and inserting the following paragraph:-

3 There is hereby established a victim and witness assistance board, to consist of seven
4 members who shall serve without compensation. Notwithstanding any provision of section six of
5 chapter two hundred and sixty-eight A to the contrary, the board shall consist of the attorney
6 general or their designee who shall be chair, two district attorneys who shall be appointed by the
7 governor, and four members of the public, of whom three shall be victims including at least one
8 representing an underserved community. Members of the public shall be appointed by the
9 governor, and victim members shall be appointed from a list of eligible nominations provided by
10 the executive director. Members of the board shall be selected from diverse ethnic, racial,

11 religious, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic, and geographical
12 backgrounds from throughout the commonwealth. All members shall serve for a term of three
13 years and until their successor is duly appointed and qualified, except that any person appointed
14 to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term. Any member of the board shall be
15 eligible for reappointment.

16 For the purposes of this section, “underserved community” shall include, but not limited
17 to, a community disproportionately impacted by high rates of violence and crime and populations
18 underserved due to racial and ethnic identity.

19 For the purposes of this section, “members of the public” shall not include any current
20 local, state, or federal elected official.

21 Said Section 4 of chapter 258B, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking
22 the word “four” in the second paragraph and inserting the following word:- six