

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 01811**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*Benjamin Swan*

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*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 to establish a democracy fund.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Benjamin Swan*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*11th Hampden*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 01811

By Mr. Benjamin Swan of Springfield, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 01811) of Benjamin Swan relative to authorizing the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to issue a democracy in action distinctive license plate. Joint Committee on Transportation.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 3340 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act to establish a democracy fund.

□.

*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 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following  
2 section:—

3 Section 31. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
4 separate fund to be known as the Democracy Fund. There shall be credited to said fund revenues  
5 received from the sale of Democracy in Action distinctive registration plates and a state  
6 supplemental allocation in such amount that the yearly revenues reaches, but does not exceed  
7 \$1,000,000; interest earnings thereon issued pursuant to subsection (d) of section 2E of chapter  
8 90.

9 (b) The secretary of state shall be the trustee of all amounts credited to the Democracy  
10 Fund, Amounts credited to the Commonwealth Security Trust Fund and interest earnings thereon  
11 shall be available for expenditure and not subject to appropriation at the direction of the secretary  
12 of state for the following purposes: (i) for providing grants to local community-based  
13 organizations engaged in voter registration and/or civic education efforts; (ii) for providing  
14 grants to non-partisan statewide organizations that sponsor or undertake voter education, voter  
15 outreach and/or voter registration efforts; and (iii) for grants to public schools to develop and  
16 implement civic education and/or civic engagement programs targeted to students of said public  
17 schools.

18 SECTION 2. E of chapter 90 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by adding the  
19 following subsection:—

20 (d) The registrar shall furnish, upon application, to the owners of private passenger motor  
21 vehicles distinctive registration plates which shall display on their face a design celebrating  
22 democracy and civic engagement. Said design shall be by the registrar in consultation with the  
23 secretary of state. There shall be a fee of not less than \$40 for such plates in addition to the  
24 established registration fee for private passenger motor vehicles, such fee being payable at the  
25 time of registration of such vehicle and at each renewal thereof. The portion of the total fee  
26 remaining after the deduction of the costs directly attributable to the issuance of such plates shall  
27 be deposited in a registry retained revenue account and of the remaining portion of such fee, 100  
28 per cent shall be deposited in the Democracy and Civic Engagement Fund Established in section  
29 31 of chapter 9.