

HOUSE No. 2656

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Diana DiZoglio

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 establishing a special commission to study the legislative process.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>

HOUSE No. 2656

By Ms. DiZoglio of Methuen, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2656) of Diana DiZoglio and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the legislative process. Rules of the two branches, acting concurrently.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 2706 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**
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An Act establishing a special commission to study the legislative process.

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. (a) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there is
2 hereby established a special commission to study the legislative process with the goal of
3 improving transparency and increasing public access to legislative initiatives in the
4 commonwealth.

5 (b) The commission shall consist of 15 members, 4 of whom shall be members of the
6 house of representatives, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house, 1 of whom
7 shall be appointed by the minority leader and 1 of whom shall be the chair of the joint committee
8 on rules; 4 of whom shall be members of the senate, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the senate
9 president, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader and 1 of whom shall be the chair

10 of the joint committee on rules; the clerk of the house of representatives, or a designee; the clerk
11 of the senate, or a designee; the chief information officer of the general court, or a designee; and
12 4 members appointed by the governor

13 (c) The commission shall: (i) examine and report on barriers to transparency and public
14 access to the legislative process; (ii) examine best practices learned from similar efforts
15 undertaken by legislative bodies in other states and at the federal level; and (iii) identify
16 opportunities to promote transparency and public access to the legislative process in the
17 commonwealth. The commission may hold hearings and invite testimony from experts and the
18 public.

19 (d) The commission shall issue a report detailing its recommendations to the general
20 court together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry out its recommendations and file said
21 report with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives on or before June 15, 2017.