

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2769**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Harold P. Naughton, Jr.***

*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 appointment of veterans agents and service officers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>Paul Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 2769**

By Mr. Naughton of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2769) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr. and others relative to the appointment of veterans' agents and service officers. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3151 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 relative to the appointment of veterans agents and service officers.

*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. Section 3 of Chapter 115 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by deleting the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof  
3 the following:-

4 The Mayor of each city, except Boston, and the selectmen of each town, shall appoint a  
5 veterans' agent/veterans' service officer to act for him or them in the disbursement of veterans'  
6 benefits by such city or town; provided, however, that in each town having a part time veterans'  
7 agent/veterans' service officer the town clerk shall receive applications and assist applicants for  
8 veterans' benefits, and shall submit said applications to the veterans' agent/veterans' service  
9 officer. Two or more contiguous towns may, by vote of the selectmen, and subject to the  
10 approval of the commissioner, appoint one full time veterans' agent/veterans' service officer and

11 such additional staff as necessary, and may apportion the payment of compensation among such  
12 towns. The appointment of a veterans' agent/veterans' service officer shall not create a civil  
13 service position. Any person who is appointed to the position of veterans' agent/veterans' service  
14 officer and certified by the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services as a trained veterans'  
15 agent/veterans' service officer and who has held such position for not less than three years, shall  
16 not be involuntarily separated and shall have the same rights and protection granted to any  
17 veteran under section 9A of chapter 30 of the General Laws, notwithstanding that his or her prior  
18 appointments were for a fixed term.