

HOUSE No. 03440

(House – [Enter text], 05/10/2011)



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN

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HOUSE No. 03440

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Deval Patrick

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 RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING PRECINCTS IN THE TOWN OF LANCASTER. .

PETITION OF:

NAME: _____ | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: _____

11 General Laws c. 54, § 6 requires that a Town establish precinct lines every 10 years,
12 following the federal census, and limits the size of a precinct to 4,000 voters. While the Town
13 currently has 2 precincts, the new census numbers show a population of 8,055 inhabitants, with
14 more than 4,000 voters in Precinct 1, thus requiring creation of a third precinct. The most recent
15 census count, however, includes 1259 inmates living in the Souza-Baranowski correctional
16 facility in the Precinct 1 count. The non-prison population in Precinct 1 remains well below
17 statutory limits.

18 Given that the population of eligible voters in Precinct 1 is below the statutory threshold, the
19 intent of ensuring an orderly voting process will not be furthered by requiring creation of a third
20 precinct. The creation of an additional precinct thus would create unnecessary fiscal and
21 logistical burdens for the Town.

22 I urge your early and favorable consideration of this bill.

23 Respectfully submitted,

24 DEVAL L. PATRICK

25 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 6 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other
26 general or special law to the contrary, the town of Lancaster shall not be required to establish
27 separate voting precincts, provided that the nonprisoner population of the town remains below
28 the standard established by said section 6 of said chapter 54 requiring reprecincting.

29 SECTION 2. The nonprisoner population of the town of Lancaster shall be determined by
30 subtracting the prisoner population as reported by the department of correction to the town from
31 the total population as reported by the United States Census Bureau as calculated in the most

32 recent decennial census. The prisoner population information shall be in the same form as the
33 population information given to the town by the United States Census Bureau.

34 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.