

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 419**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Lori A. Ehrlich and Jason M. Lewis***

*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 ivory and rhino horn trafficking.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Cory Atkins</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael D. Brady</i>	<i>Second Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Kate D. Campanale</i>	<i>17th Worcester</i>
<i>Linda Dean Campbell</i>	<i>15th Essex</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Tackey Chan</i>	<i>2nd Norfolk</i>
<i>Nick Collins</i>	<i>4th Suffolk</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Edward F. Coppinger</i>	<i>10th Suffolk</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Daniel Cullinane</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>

<i>Mark J. Cusack</i>	<i>5th Norfolk</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo L. D'Emilia</i>	<i>8th Plymouth</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Daniel M. Donahue</i>	<i>16th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul J. Donato</i>	<i>35th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>	<i>10th Plymouth</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Thomas A. Golden, Jr.</i>	<i>16th Middlesex</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia A. Haddad</i>	<i>5th Bristol</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Natalie Higgins</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kevin G. Honan</i>	<i>17th Suffolk</i>
<i>Donald F. Humason, Jr.</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Jay R. Kaufman</i>	<i>15th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Stephen Kulik</i>	<i>1st Franklin</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>John J. Lawn, Jr.</i>	<i>10th Middlesex</i>
<i>Jack Lewis</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>

<i>David Paul Linsky</i>	<i>5th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Adrian Madaro</i>	<i>1st Suffolk</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Malia</i>	<i>11th Suffolk</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>James R. Miceli</i>	<i>19th Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Michlewitz</i>	<i>3rd Suffolk</i>
<i>Leonard Mirra</i>	<i>2nd Essex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Marc R. Pacheco</i>	<i>First Plymouth and Bristol</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>	<i>14th Norfolk</i>
<i>William Smitty Pignatelli</i>	<i>4th Berkshire</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Jeffrey Sánchez</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Theodore C. Speliotis</i>	<i>13th Essex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Jose F. Tosado</i>	<i>9th Hampden</i>
<i>Steven Ultrino</i>	<i>33rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>John C. Velis</i>	<i>4th Hampden</i>

*Chris Walsh*

*6th Middlesex*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 419**

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By Representative Ehrlich of Marblehead and Senator Lewis, a joint petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 419) of Lori A. Ehrlich and others relative to ivory and rhino horn trafficking. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to ivory and rhino horn trafficking.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           The Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, are hereby  
2 amended by inserting after chapter 131A the following new chapter:-

3           **CHAPTER 131B IVORY AND RHINO HORN TRAFFICKING**

4           SECTION 1. (a) "Ivory" means a tooth or tusk composed of ivory from any species of  
5 elephant, mammoth, or mastodon, or any piece thereof, and includes any item or product  
6 containing ivory.

7           (b) "Rhinoceros horn" means the horn, or a piece thereof, or derivative such as powder,  
8 of any species of rhinoceros, and includes any item or product containing rhinoceros horn.

9           (c) "Total value of the ivory or rhinoceros horn" means the fair market value of the ivory  
10 or rhinoceros horn, or the actual price paid for the ivory or rhinoceros horn, whichever is greater.

11 (d) “Bona fide educational or scientific institution” means an institution that establishes  
12 through documentation educational or scientific tax exemption, from the federal Internal  
13 Revenue Service or the institution’s national or state tax authority.

14 (e) “Sale” or “sell” means selling, trading, bartering for monetary or nonmonetary  
15 consideration, and includes any transfer of ownership that occurs in the course of a commercial  
16 transaction.

17 SECTION 2. (a) In addition to the prohibitions and penalties established under M.G.L.  
18 ch.131A, §1- 7, and any other applicable law, and notwithstanding the exemptions in Chapter  
19 131A, §2 or any other provision of law, no person shall sell, offer for sale, purchase, or possess  
20 with intent to sell, any ivory or rhinoceros horn, except as provided in this section.

21 (b) It shall be prima facia evidence of possession with intent to sell when ivory or  
22 rhinoceros horn is possessed in a retail or wholesale outlet commonly used for buying or selling  
23 of similar products, provided, however, that nothing in this subsection shall preclude a finding of  
24 intent to sell based on any other evidence which may independently establish such intent.

25 (c) The prohibitions set forth in subsection (a) shall not apply to any of the following:

26 (1) An employee or agent of the federal or state government undertaking a law  
27 enforcement activity pursuant to federal or state law, or a mandatory duty required by federal  
28 law.

29 (2) An activity that is authorized by an exemption or permit under federal law or that is  
30 otherwise expressly authorized under federal law.

31 (3) Ivory or rhinoceros horn that is a fixed component of a musical instrument, including,  
32 but not limited to, a string or wind instrument or piano, provided that the ivory or rhinoceros  
33 horn was legally acquired, and provided that the total weight of the ivory or rhinoceros horn is  
34 less than 200 grams.

35 (4) Ivory or rhinoceros horn that a fixed component of an antique that is not made wholly  
36 or primarily of the ivory or rhinoceros horn, provided that the antique status is established by the  
37 owner or seller of the antique with documentation demonstrating provenance and showing the  
38 antique to be not less than 100 years old, and provided that the total weight of the ivory or  
39 rhinoceros horn is less than 200 grams.

40 (5) The purchase, sale, offer for sale, or possession with intent to sell, ivory or rhinoceros  
41 horn for educational or scientific purposes by a bona fide educational or scientific institution if  
42 both of the following criteria are satisfied:

43 (6) The purchase, sale, offer for sale, possession with intent to sell, or import with intent  
44 to sell the ivory or rhinoceros horn is not prohibited by federal law.

45 (7) The ivory or rhinoceros horn was legally acquired before January 1, 1991, and was  
46 not subsequently transferred from one person to another for financial gain or profit after July 1,  
47 2017.

48 (d) A person may convey ivory, an ivory product, rhinoceros horn or rhinoceros horn  
49 product which is part of an estate or other items being conveyed to lawful beneficiaries upon the  
50 death of an owner, to a legal beneficiary.

51 (e) The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act or its application is  
52 held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given  
53 effect without the invalid provision or application.

54 SECTION 3. (a) Whoever violates this section or any rule or regulation adopted under  
55 this Chapter shall be punished by:

56 (1) for a first offense may be fined not more than \$4,000 or an amount equal to two times  
57 the total value of the ivory, ivory products, rhinoceros horn, and rhinoceros horn products  
58 involved in the offense; and may be imprisoned up to 6 months in a house of correction.

59 (2) for a second or subsequent offense, shall be fined not less than \$8,000 or an amount  
60 equal to two times the total value of the ivory, ivory products, rhinoceros horn, and rhinoceros  
61 horn products involved in the offense, whichever is greater, and may be imprisoned for up to 18  
62 months in a house of correction.

63 (3) for subsequent offenses or for any offense where the value the trafficked ivory and/or  
64 rhino horn and other trafficked items combined equals \$25,000, may be imprisoned for up to two  
65 and a half years in a house of correction and fined no less than an amount equal to \$40,000 or an  
66 amount equal to two times the total value of the ivory, ivory products, rhinoceros horn, and  
67 rhinoceros horn products involved in the offense, whichever is greater.

68 (b) Upon a conviction for violating the provisions of section 2, the court shall order the  
69 seizure of all ivory, ivory products, rhinoceros horn, and rhinoceros horn products involved in  
70 the violation and determine the penalty for the violation based on the assessed value of the seized  
71 products according to subsection (a) of this section. After sentencing the defendant, the court  
72 shall order that the seized ivory, ivory products, rhinoceros horn, and rhinoceros horn products



73 be transferred to the department of fish and game for proper disposition. The department, at its  
74 discretion, may destroy the ivory, ivory products, rhinoceros horn, and rhinoceros horn products  
75 or donate them to an educational or scientific institution or organization, including, but not  
76 necessarily limited to, a museum or university.

77 SECTION 4. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books of the commonwealth  
78 a separate fund, to be known as the Elephant Ivory and Rhino Horn Trafficking Enforcement  
79 Fund. The fund shall be used by the office of law enforcement within the executive office of  
80 energy and environmental affairs in consultation with the environmental crimes strike force, to  
81 increase or expand enforcement and educational efforts related to the provisions of this chapter,  
82 or to provide financial rewards offered to persons providing information leading to the arrest and  
83 conviction of persons found to be in violation of section 2. The office of law enforcement may  
84 use the fund for necessary and reasonable administrative and personnel costs related to the  
85 specific purposes of the fund. The office of law enforcement shall not use the fund for existing  
86 personnel or overhead costs. The secretary of the executive office of energy and environmental  
87 affairs in consultation with the director of the office of law enforcement and the environmental  
88 crimes strike force shall establish rules and regulations relating to the fund.

89 (b) The fund shall consist of all revenues received by the commonwealth under section 3.  
90 There shall be credited to the fund any revenue from appropriations or other monies authorized  
91 by the general court and specifically designated to be credited to the fund, any appropriation or  
92 grant explicitly made to the fund and from public and private sources as gifts, grants and  
93 donations to further enhance elephant ivory and rhino horn trafficking and enforcement of this  
94 Chapter.

95 (c) The state treasurer shall deposit amounts in the fund in accordance with section 34 of  
96 chapter 29 in a manner that will secure the highest interest rate available consistent with the  
97 safety of the fund and with the requirement that all amounts on deposit shall be available for  
98 immediate withdrawal at any time. The fund may be expended by the director of the office of  
99 law enforcement without further appropriation for the purposes stated in this section and any  
100 funds remaining at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund and shall be  
101 available for use in subsequent fiscal years. Funds deposited and expended from the Elephant  
102 Ivory and Rhino Horn Trafficking Enforcement Fund shall not be assessed any indirect costs.

103 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect six months from the date of passage.