

HOUSE No. 585

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James M. Murphy

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 increasing voter participation in primary elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

James M. Murphy

4th Norfolk

James M. Cantwell

4th Plymouth

HOUSE No. 585

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 585) of James M. Murphy and James M. Cantwell for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to increasing voter participation in primary elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)

An Act increasing voter participation in primary elections.

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 special commission is hereby established pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4
2 for the purpose of making an investigation and study relative to increasing voter participation in
3 primary elections. Said commission shall specifically investigate the implementation of a “Top
4 Two Primary system” as well as party convention rules relative to party nominations of
5 candidates, and primary election dates. The commission shall consist of 2 members of the senate,
6 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Senate President, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the
7 minority leader, 1 of whom shall act as co-chairperson; 2 members of the house of
8 representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, 1 of
9 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader 1, 1 of whom shall act as co-chairperson; the
10 secretary of the commonwealth or their designee; the president of the Massachusetts Town
11 Clerks’ Association or their designee; the president of the Massachusetts City Clerks’
12 Association or their designee; the executive director of Common Cause Massachusetts or their

13 designee; and 1 person from each of the political parties as defined in section 1 of chapter 50 of
14 the General Laws eligible to conduct primary elections at the next following biennial state
15 election.

16 Said commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study
17 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its
18 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the
19 House of Representatives six months after the enactment of this legislation.