

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 697**

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**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:

*James M. Murphy*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*4th Norfolk*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 697**

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 697) of James M. Murphy 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 Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**

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

14 each of the political parties as defined in section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws eligible to  
15 conduct primary elections at the next following biennial state 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.