

HOUSE No. 811

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jay D. Livingstone

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 to create a commission examining child disenfranchisement and recommending alternatives.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 811

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 811) of Jay D. Livingstone for legislation to establish a special commission (including members of the General Court) to investigate and report on the inclusion of those under 18 years of age to participate in elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act to create a commission examining child disenfranchisement and recommending alternatives.

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) There shall be a special legislative commission established pursuant to
2 section 24A of Chapter 111 of the general laws to examine and make recommendations on
3 children’s voting rights and access to civic engagement.

4 (b) The commission shall consist of at least the following 11 members: the house and
5 senate chairs of the committee on elections, or their designees, who shall serve as co-chairs; the
6 house and senate minority leaders, or their designees; the Secretary of State, or their designee; 1
7 member from the Generation Citizen; 1 member from the MA Council for the Social Studies; 1
8 member from Common Cause MA; 1 member from MassVOTE; and, appointed by the
9 Governor, 1 developmental pediatrician from Pediatric Healthcare at Newton-Wellesley, 1
10 guardian ad litem from MA Court Appointed Special Advocates and 1 professor who has
11 published two or more peer-reviewed papers about voting age in the last ten years.

12 All appointments shall be made not later than 30 days after the effective date of this act.
13 The commission shall convene its first meeting not later than 60 days after the effective date of
14 this act.

15 (c) The commission shall investigate and report on the inclusion of those under 18 years
16 of age to participate in elections.

17 (d) The special legislative commission shall conduct public hearings, forums or meetings
18 across the Commonwealth to gather information. These processes shall be required to be held in
19 different regions of the Commonwealth and at least half must be held outside of business hours
20 including, but not limited to, on the weekend, weeknights and virtually.

21 (e) Not later than one year after the effective date of this act, the commission shall file a
22 report of its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry
23 those recommendations into effect, with the secretary of state, the clerks of the house of
24 representatives and the senate, the house and senate committees on ways and means, and the
25 joint committee on elections.

26 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.