

**SENATE . . . . . No. 01621**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Bruce E. Tarr*

*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 reducing the use of paper and increasing government efficiencies..

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bruce E. Tarr</i>	<i>First Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael R. Knapik</i>	<i>Second Hampden and Hampshire</i>
<i>Robert L. Hedlund</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>
<i>Richard J. Ross</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex</i>
<i>Barry R. Finegold</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Richard T. Moore</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>

# SENATE . . . . . No. 01621

By Mr. Tarr, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1621) of Moore, Finegold, Ross and other members of the Senate for legislation to reduce the use of paper and increase government efficiencies [Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight].

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
SENATE  
, NO. 1463 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**

An Act reducing the use of paper and increasing government efficiencies..

*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. The secretary of administration and finance shall increase the efficiency of  
2 government through:

3 (1) Reducing the use of paper through maximizing the available uses of information  
4 technology, including alternative information technologies to substitute for paper and increasing  
5 the use of electronic methods for the maintenance, submission, or disclosure of information, to  
6 improve data quality, agency efficiency and responsiveness to the public;

7 (2) Eliminating costly and wasteful government publications through the expanded use of  
8 electronic methods for distribution of documentation throughout state government, where  
9 feasible and appropriate;

10 (3) Increasing and maximizing the availability of online transactions; including statutorily  
11 and regulatorily required corporate filings and frequently transacted governmental business with  
12 the citizens of the Commonwealth;

13 (4) Maximizing the use and availability electronic forms of payment and eliminating or  
14 minimizing any prohibitive fees associated with such transactions; and

15 (5) Eliminating duplicative permitting and paperwork requirements through  
16 implementing inter-agency file sharing technologies in order that electronically stored data can  
17 be viewed and routed, where appropriate, by multiple agencies.

18 Section 2. The secretary shall investigate any current statutory impediments for the  
19 reduction of the use of paper by state government and any impediments both statutory and  
20 technological, for more efficient electronic data storage and dissemination. The secretary shall  
21 submit his findings, along with any legislative recommendations to address those findings, to the  
22 house and senate clerks, and the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight  
23 no later than August 31, 2011.

24 Section 3. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary there shall be a  
25 special commission to investigate and make recommendations as to the feasibility of increasing  
26 electronic filings, records management and transactions within the judiciary. Said commission  
27 shall investigate the possibility of eliminating, or substantially reducing the utilization of paper  
28 filings in court proceedings.

29           Said commission shall consist of twenty-five members, one of which shall be the chief  
30 justice of the supreme judicial court, or her designee, who shall also serve as chair, one of which  
31 shall be the chief justice of the appeals court, or his designee, one of which shall be the chief  
32 justice for administration and management, or his designee, one of which shall be the chief judge  
33 of the probate and family court, or his designee, one of which shall be the chief judge of the land  
34 court, or his designee, one of which shall be the attorney general of the commonwealth, or her  
35 designee; nineteen of which shall be appointed by the chief justice of the supreme judicial court,  
36 provided that three of which shall be district attorneys from diverse dispersed areas of the  
37 commonwealth, or their designees; provided further that three of which shall be clerk of courts in  
38 the commonwealth, or their designees; provided further that two of which shall be registers of  
39 deeds in the commonwealth, or their designees; provided further that two of which shall be  
40 registers of probate in the commonwealth, or their designees; provided further that six of which  
41 shall be selected from nominations provided by the Massachusetts Bar Association, provided that  
42 such persons shall represent diverse practice areas and practice sizes; provided further that four  
43 of which shall be experts in areas of information technology, data storage, security and privacy  
44 protection.

45           Said commission shall submit its findings, along with any legislative recommendations  
46 necessary to address those findings, to the house and senate clerks, the joint committee on the  
47 judiciary, and the joint committee on state administration and regulatory oversight no later than  
48 October 15, 2011.