

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1728**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

***Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)***

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*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 for improving boards and commissions.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Vincent Lawrence Dixon*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*60 Lake Street – Unit N, Winchester, Mass.  
01890*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1728**

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By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1728) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation for improving boards and commissions. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act for improving boards and commissions.

*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 Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the  
2 following new chapter: An Act to Improve the Functioning of Various Boards and Commissions.

3           1.) The Office of Boards and Commissions, within the Executive Office for  
4 Administration and Finance, shares, and helps perform, the important tasks related to filling  
5 appointments, in over 700 Boards and Commissions. While the performance, has improved,  
6 there are certain additional abilities, that can be added, in order to improve the filling of  
7 appointments, the renewal of appointments, and the more complete membership of especially  
8 important bodies. This legislation is created, to add these powers, and opportunities, to The  
9 Office of Boards and Commissions.

10           2.) Whereas, the various Boards, and Commissions, of Massachusetts, have been created  
11 over time, to accomplish a variety of public tasks, and decisions, in a manner that allows  
12 informed consideration, deliberation, and decision making.

13           3.) Whereas, a large and persistent problem has continued, of the nature that members,  
14 and memberships of many of the said Boards, and Commissions, have failed of renewal,  
15 appointment, and/or reappointment, often leaving boards absent of quorums, and/or ability to  
16 make legally binding decisions.

17           4.) Therefore, this legislation sets the following requirements, in order to improve the  
18 functioning of boards, and commissions:

19           A general Registry Of Available Volunteer Board and Commission Members, for  
20 appointment, shall be created; as a mechanism to recruit individuals capable of service on such  
21 bodies. This Registry will engage in regular and suitable publicity, and recruitment activities,  
22 through all forms of media, printed, electronic, and social media, seeking competent  
23 professionals, talented career individuals, and general citizens, with both specific and general  
24 skills. These publicity efforts should include, regular News Releases, and Public Service  
25 Announcements (PSAs) for general distribution.

26           As individuals are identified, suitable personnel screenings, shall be conducted, to  
27 establish eligibility for this Registry.

28           Once individuals are determined to be qualified for various bodies, they may be  
29 identified, also, as particularly qualified, for particular bodies.

30           As this roster is compiled for the Registry, it should be updated on a yearly basis.

31           All winning, and losing, candidates for any elected public office in Massachusetts, shall  
32 be contacted, and may be included in such a list(s) of potential appointees, since they, by being  
33 candidates for public office, have indicated an interest in aspects of public service.

34 All members, of all existing Boards and Commissions, shall be annually queried by  
35 postal mail, and other means, as to the continuing nature of their activity as a member, their  
36 interest in remaining as a member, such thoughts as they may have in the continuation of their  
37 service, and of the Board, or Commission, of which they are a member; and also ideas about  
38 effective recruitment of members such as themselves.

39 In the cases of those Boards, and Commissions, which intersect with, or relate to decision  
40 making on the licensure, or the determination of conduct of professional paid activities,  
41 employment, or activities; and meeting at least every three (3) months, a nominal stipend of three  
42 (3) hours per meeting, of the equivalent value of the Minimum Wage, may be compensated to  
43 members, if so authorized by the General Court.