

HOUSE No. 1340

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Ruth B. Balsler, (BY REQUEST)

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 recognize common law marriage in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Linda Bonica

José F. Tosado

9th Hampden

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By Ms. Balsler of Newton (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1340) of Linda Bonica and José F. Tosado for legislation to recognize common law marriage in the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1169 OF 2015-2016.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—————
In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)
—————

An Act to recognize common law marriage in the Commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 207 § 59

2 Persons cohabiting and acknowledging each other as spouse, and generally reputed to be
3 such, for 3 years shall thereafter be deemed to have been legally married.

4 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to render any common-law marriage, otherwise
5 lawful, invalid by reason of the failure to take out a license or follow solemnization procedures
6 as provided by this chapter.