

HOUSE No. 178

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Shawn Dooley

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 relative to the establishment of a commission for fairness in liquor licensing.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Shawn Dooley</i>	<i>9th Norfolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>James J. Dwyer</i>	<i>30th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>Kevin J. Kuros</i>	<i>8th Worcester</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>

HOUSE No. 178

By Mr. Dooley of Norfolk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 178) of Shawn Dooley and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of fairness in liquor licensing. Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to the establishment of a commission for fairness in liquor licensing.

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) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, there shall
2 be established a special commission to study and report on the feasibility of providing
3 municipalities the power to grant for municipal use liquor licenses. The commission shall be
4 comprised of 5 members; 2 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be
5 appointed by the speaker of the house, and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader
6 of the house; 2 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the senate president, and
7 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and 1 member appointed by
8 the Governor.

9 The scope of the commission shall include, but shall not be limited to, studying: the
10 impact of current liquor laws in municipalities throughout the commonwealth; the financial and
11 employment impacts on businesses within the commonwealth; ensuring that this system is fair to

12 existing license holders and does not create a devaluing of their business by creating unfair
13 competitive advantages to new businesses.

14 (b) The commission shall report the results of its investigation and study and its
15 recommendations by filing the same with the clerk of the senate, the clerk of the house of
16 representatives, the alcoholic beverages control commission under the office of the state
17 treasurer, and the joint committee on consumer protection and licensure no later than one year
18 after the first meeting of the commission is convened.

19 (c) The commission shall conduct its first meeting no later than 60 days after the effective
20 date of this act.