

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00211**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

*William M. Straus*

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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 passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to certain county elections for certain vacancies..

\_\_\_\_\_  
PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

.....  
*William M. Straus*

.....  
*10th Bristol*

.....  
*Cory Atkins*

.....  
*14th Middlesex*

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00211

By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, petition (accompanied by [legType], House, No. 00211) of [petitioners] relative to elections to fill vacancies in certain county positions . Joint Committee on Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
 HOUSE  
 , NO. 686 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to certain county elections for certain vacancies..

*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 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out Section 142 and inserting in
- 2 place thereof the following section:
- 3 Section 142. Notwithstanding any general or special law or rule or regulation to the contrary,
- 4 upon failure to elect or upon a vacancy in the office of district attorney, register of probate,
- 5 sheriff, clerk of the courts or in Suffolk county, of the supreme judicial or superior court, at any
- 6 time preceding the last nine calendar months of the term, the governor shall cause precepts to be
- 7 issued to the proper officers directing them to call an election within 120 days for the election of
- 8 said officer.

9 Upon a vacancy in the office of district attorney, registrar of probate or sheriff, the first assistant  
10 district attorney, the first assistant registrar of probate or the special sheriff, as the case may be,  
11 shall assume the duties of the office until a district attorney, registrar of probate or sheriff is  
12 elected and qualified.

13 Upon a vacancy in the office of clerk of the courts in any county, or of the clerk of the supreme  
14 judicial court in Suffolk county, the justices of said court may appoint a clerk to hold the office  
15 until a clerk is qualified.

16 Upon a vacancy in the office of a clerk of the superior court in Suffolk county, the justices of  
17 said court may appoint a clerk to hold the office until a clerk is qualified.