

HOUSE No. 3558

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Marjorie C. Decker

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 combatting misinformation about ex-offender voting rights.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

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By Ms. Decker of Cambridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3558) of Marjorie C. Decker and others that the Office of the Commissioner of Probation be authorized to notify certain persons convicted of a felony of their voter eligibility. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act combatting misinformation about ex-offender voting rights.

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 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section:-

2 Section 65. (a) Any person who is convicted of a felony, as defined in section 1 of
3 chapter 274, in the commonwealth, but is not sentenced to incarceration in a jail or correctional
4 facility, shall be notified in writing by the ruling court, immediately following such conviction
5 and sentencing, of his or her voter eligibility, and shall confirm, in writing, that he or she was so
6 notified.

7 (b) A probation officer shall immediately notify, in writing, any person that is placed in
8 their care, who was convicted of a felony or incarcerated due to a felony conviction, of said
9 person’s voter eligibility status, shall provide said person with written information on voter
10 eligibility and voter registration, and shall obtain written confirmation from said person that he
11 or she was so notified.

12 (c) A parole officer shall immediately notify, in writing, any person that is placed in their
13 care, who was incarcerated due to a felony conviction, of said person's voter eligibility status,
14 shall provide said person with written information on voter eligibility and voter registration, and
15 shall obtain written confirmation from said person that he or she was so notified.

16 (d) Any person who is incarcerated due to a felony conviction shall, upon release from a
17 jail or correctional facility, be notified, in writing, by said jail or facility of his or her voter
18 eligibility and provided with written voter eligibility and voter registration information, and shall
19 confirm, in writing, that he or she was so notified.

20 (e) The office of the commissioner of probation shall notify, in writing, any person that
21 was convicted of a felony by a court of the commonwealth within the period of 10 years prior to
22 the effective date of this section, who is not currently incarcerated, of their voter eligibility, shall
23 provide said person with written voter eligibility and voter registration information and shall
24 obtain written confirmation from said person that he or she was so notified.