

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 380**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*James M. Murphy*

*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 increasing voter participation in primary elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 380**

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By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 380) of James M. Murphy, James M. Cantwell and Bruce J. Ayers for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to increasing voter participation in primary elections. Election Laws.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 585 OF 2015-2016.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
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An Act increasing voter participation in primary elections.

*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 special commission is hereby established pursuant to section 2A of  
2 chapter 4 for the purpose of making an investigation and study relative to increasing voter  
3 participation in primary elections. Said commission shall specifically investigate the  
4 implementation of a “Top Two Primary system” as well as party convention rules relative to  
5 party nominations of candidates, and primary election dates. The commission shall consist of 2  
6 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the Senate President, 1 of whom shall  
7 be appointed by the minority leader, 1 of whom shall act as co-chairperson; 2 members of the  
8 house of representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of  
9 representatives, 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader 1, 1 of whom shall act as  
10 co-chairperson; the secretary of the commonwealth or their designee; the president of the

11 Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association or their designee; the president of the Massachusetts  
12 City Clerks' Association or their designee; the executive director of Common Cause  
13 Massachusetts or their designee; and 1 person from each of the political parties as defined in  
14 section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws eligible to conduct primary elections at the next  
15 following biennial state election.

16 Said commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study  
17 and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry its  
18 recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the  
19 House of Representatives six months after the enactment of this legislation.