

SENATE No. 1878

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 ensure gender parity on public boards and commissions.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>	<i>First Worcester</i>	<i>1/18/2019</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/22/2019</i>
<i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>	<i>18th Essex</i>	<i>1/28/2019</i>

SENATE No. 1878

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1878) of Jason M. Lewis, Harriette L. Chandler, Rebecca L. Rausch and Tram T. Nguyen for legislation to ensure gender parity on public boards and commissions. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to ensure gender parity on public boards and commissions.

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. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
2 56, the following section:-

3 Section 56A. (a) (1) Beginning on and after January 1, 2022, the composition of each
4 appointed public board and commission in the Commonwealth shall broadly reflect the general
5 public of the commonwealth, including persons of different backgrounds, abilities, interests, and
6 opinions including ethnic minorities and women and shall have not less than 50 per cent women
7 board members or commissioners.

8 (2) For the purposes of this section, “woman” means an individual who self-identifies her
9 gender as a woman, without regard to the individual’s designated sex at birth.

10 (b) When practicable, the racial and ethnic composition of each board and commission
11 shall reflect the percentage of racial and ethnic minorities in the general population.

12 (c) (1) The commission against discrimination shall collect and release, annually, at a
13 minimum, and on an aggregate basis, the following:

14 (A) Demographic data provided by all public board and commission applicants relative to
15 ethnicity, race, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

16 (B) Demographic data provided by all public board and commission nominees or
17 appointees relative to ethnicity, race, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

18 (2) Any demographic data disclosed or released pursuant to this section shall disclose
19 only aggregated statistical data and shall not identify any individual applicant, nominee, or
20 appointed board member or commissioner.

21 SECTION 2. The commission against discrimination shall provide annual notification of
22 the provisions in section 1 to each appointing authority.