HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2835 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1978

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Koutoujian

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:

An Act relative to early elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Peter J. Koutoujian	*10th Middlesex*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2835 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 1978

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1978) of Peter J. Koutoujian relative to early voting in certain elections. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *658* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to early elections.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following:-

As used in this section, the following shall have the following meanings:-

"Early Voting" means casting a ballot prior to Election Day at a location designated by the supervisor of elections and depositing the voted ballot in the tabulation system.

"Election" means any primary election, special primary election, special election, general election, or presidential preference primary election.

Section 103B: The supervisor of elections shall allow an elector to vote early in the main or branch office of the supervisor by depositing the voted ballot in a voting device used by the supervisor to collect or tabulate ballots. In order for a branch office to be used for early voting, it shall be a full-service facility of the supervisor and shall have been designated as such at least 1 year prior to the election. The supervisor may designate any city hall or public library as early voting sites; however, if so designated, the sites must be geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. The results or tabulation may not be made before the close of the polls on Election Day.

Early voting shall begin on the 15th day before an election and end on the day before an election. For purposes of a special election, early voting shall begin on the 8th day before an

18 election and end on the day before an election. Early voting shall be provided for at least 8 hours
19 per weekday during the applicable periods. Early voting shall also be provided for 8 hours in the
20 aggregate for each weekend during the applicable periods.

21 (2)(a) The elector must provide identification and must complete an Early Voting Voter
22 Certificate in substantially the following form:

23 EARLY VOTING VOTER CERTIFICATE

24 I, _____, am a qualified elector in this election and registered voter of _____ County,
25 Massachusetts. I do solemnly swear or affirm that I am the person so listed on the voter
26 registration rolls of _____ County and that I reside at the listed address. I understand that if I
27 commit or attempt to commit fraud in connection with voting, vote a fraudulent ballot, or vote
28 more than once in an election I could be convicted of a felony of the third degree and both fined
29 up to $5,000 and imprisoned for up to 5 years. I understand that my failure to sign this certificate
30 invalidates my ballot.