HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 48 FILED ON: 1/2/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 63

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William M. Straus

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:

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting by qualified voters of the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
William M. Straus	*10th Bristol*
William N. Brownsberger	*Second Suffolk and Middlesex*
James M. Cantwell	*4th Plymouth*
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Tricia Farley-Bouvier	*3rd Berkshire*
Patricia D. Jehlen	*Second Middlesex*
Stephen Kulik	*1st Franklin*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Jay R. Kaufman	*15th Middlesex*
Timothy R. Madden	*Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket*
Paul W. Mark	*2nd Berkshire*
Alice Hanlon Peisch	*14th Norfolk*
Elizabeth A. Poirier	*14th Bristol*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Sarah K. Peake	*4th Barnstable*
Michael J. Rodrigues	*First Bristol and Plymouth*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*

David Paul Linsky	*5th Middlesex*
Daniel B. Winslow	*9th Norfolk*
Martha M. Walz	*8th Suffolk*
Patricia A. Haddad	*5th Bristol*
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*
Louis L. Kafka	*8th Norfolk*
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Lori A. Ehrlich	*8th Essex*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Josh S. Cutler	*6th Plymouth*
Christopher G. Fallon	*33rd Middlesex*
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
Bradley H. Jones, Jr.	*20th Middlesex*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
Peter V. Kocot	*1st Hampshire*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Jonathan Hecht	*29th Middlesex*
Thomas P. Conroy	*13th Middlesex*
Thomas M. Stanley	*9th Middlesex*
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	*26th Middlesex*
Marjorie C. Decker	*25th Middlesex*
Kate Hogan	*3rd Middlesex*
James J. O'Day	*14th Worcester*
James Arciero	*2nd Middlesex*
Sean Garballey	*23rd Middlesex*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 63

By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, a petition (accompanied by proposal, House, No. 63) of William M. Straus and others for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to absentee voting by qualified voters of the Commonwealth. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Proposal for a legislative amendment to the Constitution for a legislative amendment to the Constitution relative to voting by qualified voters of the Commonwealth.

A majority of all the members elected to the Senate and House of Representatives, in joint session, hereby declares it to be expedient to alter the Constitution by the adoption of the following Article of Amendment, to the end that it may become a part of the Constitution [if similarly agreed to in a joint session of the next General Court and approved by the people at the state election next following]:

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

Article XLV of the articles of amendment to the Constitution, as amended by Articles LXXVI and CV of said articles of amendment, is hereby annulled and the following is adopted in place thereof:-

The general court shall have power to provide by law for voting, in the choice of any officer to be elected or upon any question submitted at an election, by qualified voters of the commonwealth who, at the time of such an election, are absent from the city or town of which they are inhabitants or are unable by reason of physical disability to cast their votes in person at the polling places or who hold religious beliefs in conflict with the act of voting on the day on which such an election is to be held, or by qualified voters of the commonwealth who might otherwise choose to vote prior to the date of the election.