

HOUSE No. 660

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Susan Williams Gifford

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 relative to early voting.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>William L. Crocker, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Josh S. Cutler</i>	<i>6th Plymouth</i>
<i>Elizabeth A. Poirier</i>	<i>14th Bristol</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 660

By Ms. Gifford of Wareham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 660) of Susan Williams Gifford and others relative to early voting. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to early voting.

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. Section 25B of Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016
2 Official Edition, is amended in lines 53-54 by striking out the words “envelopes of sufficient size
3 to contain the ballots specified in clause (1) bearing on their reverse the voter’s affidavit in
4 compliance with the requirements of subsection (j)” and inserting in place thereof, the following
5 words:- any additional papers deemed necessary by the state secretary for the completion of early
6 voting.

7 SECTION 2. Section 25B of Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
8 amended by striking out in line 56 the following:- “along with an envelope”.

9 SECTION 3. Section 25B of Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is
10 amended by striking out subsection (j) in its entirety

SECTION 4. Section 25B of Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so appearing, is amended by striking out subsection (n) in its entirety and putting in place thereof, the following subsection:-

(n) The counting of early voting ballots including, but not limited to, informing election officers and any challengers present under section 85A shall be set by regulations promulgated under this chapter. Regulations concerning the counting of early voting ballots shall allow for the registrar or presiding officer at the early voting site to count early ballots as they are completed by qualified early voters. All ballots cast during the early voting period shall be retained with the ballots cast during the election and shall be preserved and destroyed in the manner provided by law for the retention, preservation or destruction of official ballots.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.