

**SENATE . . . . . No. 997**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Adam Gomez*

*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 Massachusetts state sovereignty.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Adam Gomez</i>	<i>Hampden</i>	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	<i>1/31/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>2/23/2023</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>	<i>2/24/2023</i>
<i>Paul W. Mark</i>	<i>Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire</i>	<i>3/7/2023</i>
<i>Liz Miranda</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>	<i>3/8/2023</i>

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By Mr. Gomez, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 997) of Adam Gomez, Joanne M. Comerford, Rebecca L. Rausch, Patricia D. Jehlen and other members of the Senate for legislation relative to Massachusetts state sovereignty. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
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An Act relative to Massachusetts state sovereignty.

*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 12 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition,  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after Section 5O the following new sections:-

3 Section 5P.

4 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

5 “Agreement”, any contract, agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other  
6 arrangement to arrest, detain, or house any person for the purpose of civil immigration detention,  
7 including for the purpose of detention pursuant to Sections 1225, 1226, or 1231 of Title 8 of the  
8 United States Code; and any contract, agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other  
9 arrangement pursuant to Section 1357(g) of Title 8 of the United States Code.

10 "Law enforcement agency", an agency in the Commonwealth charged with enforcement  
11 of state and municipal laws or with managing custody of detained or incarcerated persons in the

12 state, including but not limited to municipal police departments, sheriff's departments, campus  
13 police departments, the Department of Corrections, Massachusetts State Police, and the  
14 Department of Youth Services.

15 (b) The Commonwealth and any law enforcement agencies, municipalities, or other  
16 subdivisions thereof shall not be authorized to enter into a new agreement, to extend, modify or  
17 renew an existing agreement, or to remain in an existing agreement longer than ninety days from  
18 the date on which this act takes effect.

19 (c) The Attorney General may promulgate rules and regulations for purposes of  
20 implementing this section.

21 (d) Nothing in this Section shall preclude an employee or representative of a law  
22 enforcement agency from otherwise executing that person's professional duties in ensuring  
23 public safety, provided that they do not make, extend, modify, renew, or remain in an agreement  
24 in violation of this section.

25 (e) Whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe that any person or entity is  
26 violating the provisions of this section, he or she may bring an action in the name of the  
27 Commonwealth against such person or entity to restrain such violation by temporary restraining  
28 order or preliminary or permanent injunction. The action may be brought in the Superior Court  
29 of the county in which such violation is occurring or is reasonably anticipated to occur, or in the  
30 Superior Court of Suffolk county, at the Attorney General's election. Nothing herein shall  
31 preclude a private action concerning any violation of this section against any person or entity, to  
32 the extent otherwise permitted by law.

33 Section 5Q.

34 (a) As used in this section, the following words shall have the following meanings:

35 “Law enforcement agency”, the sheriffs and their offices and departments, and the police  
36 departments of municipalities and other subdivisions of the Commonwealth.

37 “Agreement”, any contract, agreement, or memorandum of understanding to which the  
38 government of the United States is party, regardless of subject matter.

39 “Deputization”, any deputization by the government of the United States or any other  
40 conferral of authority to act with the power of an officer or employee of the government of the  
41 United States, including pursuant to Sections 0.19(a)(3) and 0.112 of title 28 of the Code of  
42 Federal Regulations.

43 (b) Prior to agreeing to or otherwise accepting any agreement or deputization, or  
44 authorizing any employee to agree to or otherwise accept any agreement or deputization, a law  
45 enforcement agency must seek and receive written authorization from the Governor or the  
46 Governor’s written designee. Such authorization shall be memorialized in writing and signed by  
47 the Governor or his or her designee, and a copy of the writing shall promptly be transmitted to  
48 the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, which shall retain it for as long as the law  
49 may require, but in any event no less than six years after the date of execution or after the  
50 authorization expires, whichever is later.

51 (c) The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security may promulgate rules and  
52 regulations for purposes of implementing this section.

53 (d) Whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe that any person or entity is  
54 violating the provisions of this section, he or she may bring an action in the name of the

55 Commonwealth against such person or entity to restrain such violation by temporary restraining  
56 order or preliminary or permanent injunction. The action may be brought in the Superior Court  
57 of the county in which such violation is occurring or is reasonably anticipated to occur, or in the  
58 Superior Court of Suffolk county, at the Attorney General's election. Nothing herein shall  
59 preclude a private action concerning any violation of this section against any person or entity, to  
60 the extent otherwise permitted by law.

61 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.