

HOUSE No. 3973

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Danillo A. Sena and Simon Cataldo

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 granting the town of Acton the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Danillo A. Sena</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/29/2023</i>
<i>Simon Cataldo</i>	<i>14th Middlesex</i>	<i>6/29/2023</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>7/17/2023</i>

HOUSE No. 3973

By Representatives Sena of Acton and Cataldo of Concord, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3973) of Danillo A. Sena and Simon Cataldo (by vote of the town) that the town of Acton be authorized to grant legal voting rights in municipal elections to town residents aged 16 and 17 years old. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act granting the town of Acton the authority to provide legal voting rights in municipal elections for town residents aged 16 and 17 years old.

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. Notwithstanding section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or any other
2 general or special law, rule or regulation to the contrary, any individual aged 16 or 17 years old
3 residing in the town of Acton who is ineligible to vote due to age under state law, but who is
4 otherwise eligible, may apply to have their names entered on a list of voters established by the
5 office of the town clerk for the town of Acton. Such individuals on the list of voters may vote in
6 any election for local offices, local ballot questions, and town meeting in accordance with this
7 act.

8 SECTION 2. The office of the town clerk shall establish a separate registration list for
9 local voters aged 16 or 17 who shall fill out an alternative registration form. For the purposes of
10 this act, "local voters" are anyone who is eligible to vote pursuant to this act in a local election or
11 upon a local ballot question in the town of Acton . Upon reaching the age of 18, each local voter

12 shall be taken off said separate registration list and notified that they must register as a regular
13 voter in accordance with state law, regulations and guidelines in order to be eligible to vote. The
14 office of the town clerk shall create and print, at the Town of Acton's expense, the special
15 registration form needed for the purpose of registering local voters.

16 SECTION 3. The office of the town clerk is hereby authorized to promulgate regulations
17 and guidelines and create forms to implement this act.

18 SECTION 4. If a local ballot question appears on a state election ballot, the board shall
19 print a separate ballot for the local ballot question at the expense of the town of Acton.

20 SECTION 5. The Town of Acton is hereby authorized to pass bylaws to implement this
21 act, subject to all the provisions of the town of Acton charter.

22 SECTION 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon local voters the right to
23 vote for any state or federal office, or on any state or federal ballot questions.