

SENATE No. 340

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Cynthia Stone Creem

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 bill:

An Act require voting systems to be accessible to people with disabilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Cynthia Stone Creem	First Middlesex and Norfolk
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	26th Middlesex
Patricia D. Jehlen	Second Middlesex

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. S00447 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT REQUIRING VOTING SYSTEMS TO BE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES.

*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 32 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:
- 3 The secretary shall not approve any voting system that is acquired on or after September 1, 2007,
4 unless it:
- 5 (a) Complies with section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section
6 794) and its subsequent amendments and with Title II of the federal American with Disabilities
7 Act (42 U.S.C. Section 12131 et seq.) and its subsequent amendments;
- 8 (b) Is accessible for individuals with disabilities, including non-visual accessibility for the
9 blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and
10 participation, including privacy and independence, as for other voters; and

11 (c) Satisfies the requirement of paragraph (b) above through the use of at least one direct
12 recording electronic voting system or other voting system equipped for individuals with
13 disabilities at each voting place.