

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 536**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Brian M. Ashe*

*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 absentee ballots.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 536**

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By Mr. Ashe of Longmeadow, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 536) of Brian M. Ashe and others relative to absentee ballots. Election Laws.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 558 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to absentee ballots.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 89 the  
2 following section:-

3 Section 89A.

4 Records identifying any voter who has applied to vote by absentee ballot shall be kept  
5 confidential and shall not be considered a public record under clause Twenty-sixth of section 7  
6 of chapter 4 until the ballot has been returned; provided, however, that election officials may use  
7 these records in the proper discharge of their duties.