HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2076 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

HOUSE . . . . . No. 592

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jerald A. Parisella

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 voting overseas.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Jerald A. Parisella	*6th Essex*
John V. Fernandes	*10th Worcester*
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Michael J. Finn	*6th Hampden*
James J. Dwyer	*30th Middlesex*
Colleen M. Garry	*36th Middlesex*
Steven S. Howitt	*4th Bristol*
Claire D. Cronin	*11th Plymouth*
Jeffrey N. Roy	*10th Norfolk*
Josh S. Cutler	*6th Plymouth*
Walter F. Timilty	*7th Norfolk*
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*
Richard J. Ross	*Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex*
Keiko M. Orrall	*12th Bristol*
Lori A. Ehrlich	*8th Essex*
Denise C. Garlick	*13th Norfolk*
Kevin J. Kuros	*8th Worcester*

Joan B. Lovely	*Second Essex*
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*
Shawn Dooley	*9th Norfolk*
Paul Tucker	*7th Essex*
Louis L. Kafka	*8th Norfolk*
Elizabeth A. Malia	*11th Suffolk*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 592

By Mr. Parisella of Beverly, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 592) of Jerald A. Parisella and others relative to voting overseas. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *623* OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to voting overseas.

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

Section I: Section 91B of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking subsection (a) and replacing with the following:

(a) Except as required by subsections (b), (c) and (d), the ballot accompanying papers shall be mailed postage prepaid or, if the voter so request, delivered when called for at the office of the clerk. No ballot shall be mailed to a designated health care facility within the city or town where the voter is registered.

Section II: Section 91B of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following subsection:

(d) To any absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter as defined in the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (USC ss1973ff), the ballot of and accompanying

11 papers may be transmitted electronically by electronic mail or facsimile to the state secretary.
12 The absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter shall designate by the means of
13 communication for receiving voting materials, whether by the way of internet, fax transmittal or
14 other electronic means or by mail, and the local election official shall provide responses and
15 materials in the format designated by the requesting voter. On receipt of an application, the local
16 election official shall determine whether or not the applicant is qualified and if so, the clerk or
17 other officer in charge of elections shall forward to the applicant pursuant to this section. If no
18 means of communication is designated, the ballot shall be transmitted as provided in Section (a),
19 provided however, that if the applicant has provided an electronic mail address, fax number, or
20 other electronic address, then the clerk shall communicate with applicant that they are eligible to
21 receive the ballot electronically. For all request received from absent uniformed services voters
22 or overseas voter on or before the forty eighth day before any federal election, the ballot shall be
23 transmitted no later than the forty-fifth day before the applicable federal election.

24 Section III: Section 92 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
25 after subsection (c) the following subsection:

26 (d) An absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter as defined in the Uniformed
27 Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 USC ss1973ff) may return his or her ballot and
28 accompanying materials to the local official via electronic means regardless of how the ballot
29 and materials were received by the voter.