

HOUSE No. 1110

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Robert M. Koczera

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 early voting.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>1/20/2011</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/26/2011</i>
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2011</i>

HOUSE No. 1110

By Mr. Koczera of New Bedford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1110) of Robert M. Koczera, Carl M. Sciortino, Jr. and Gloria L. Fox relative to early voting. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to early voting.

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 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 25A the following section:-

3 Section 25B. (a) Pursuant to a request, in person, by a qualified voter, as defined in
4 section 1 of chapter 51, the local election officers and registrars of every city or town shall allow
5 any qualified voter to cast a ballot for any biennial state election, special state election, primary,
6 special primary or any other election vote prior to an election day as set forth in this section;
7 including but not limited to any city or town election.

8 (b) Early voting shall begin in the seventh day preceding an election. The early voting
9 period shall end on the day preceding the election.

10 (c) For the purposes of early voting, a polling place shall include a city hall election
11 office and a town hall clerk’s office and the registrars of each city or town shall identify and
12 provide for additional centrally-located, suitable and convenient early voting polling places

13 within each city or town for use during the early voting period. The designation of an early
14 voting polling place shall be made 30 days in advance of the election.

15 (d) The registrars for each city or town shall publish the location of the early voting
16 polling place as well as the applicable dates and hours. Said publication shall occur during the
17 week prior to the commencement of the early voting period. Notice of the dates and hours of
18 early voting shall be sent to every newspaper listed in the in the Directory of New England
19 Newspapers and Periodicals, located in such town or city. Notice of the dates and hours of early
20 voting shall also be conspicuously posted in the office of the city clerk or in the principal official
21 bulletin board of each city or town and any other public building deemed necessary.

22 (e) The state secretary shall provide a sufficient number of early voting ballots to the
23 registrars of each city or town for use during the early voting period. The ballots shall be
24 delivered to the registrars of each city or town 30 days in advance of the early voting.

25 (f) Early voting ballots shall be provided to each qualified voter who participates in early
26 voting.

27 (g) Prior to the commencement of early voting, the registrars for each city or town shall
28 prepare a list for the early voting polling place, containing the names and residences of all
29 persons qualified to vote therein, as the same appear upon the annual register, and shall
30 reasonably transmit the same to the election officers at every polling place designated by the
31 registrars.

32 (h) The presiding election officer at the early voting polling location shall cause to be
33 placed on the voting lists opposite the name of any qualified voter who participates in early
34 voting the letters "EV" designating an early voter.

35 (i) At the end of each day during the early voting period, the presiding election officer
36 shall separate, compile, and record early ballots cast at each polling location into the appropriate
37 ward and precinct. The resulting list of early voters shall be updated daily and saved
38 electronically . By 5:00 P.M. on the day

39 before election day, the list shall be forwarded to the appropriate ward and precinct
40 location.

41 (j) Sections 24, 25, 25A, 65, 66, 72, 73, and 75 shall apply to polling places during early
42 elections.

43 (k) The ballot boxes for early voting shall be sealed and locked and maintained securely
44 by the election officers.

45 (l) The registrars for each city or town shall designate a location for the counting of early
46 ballots. The early voting ballots shall be opened at the close of all polling locations on election
47 day. All totals shall be added to the totals at the relevant wards and precincts.