

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 961**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Harold P. Naughton, Jr.*

*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 the appointment of veterans agents and service officers.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Harold P. Naughton, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Worcester</i>	<i>1/13/2011</i>
<i>Mark J. Cusack</i>	<i>5th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/4/2011</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 961**

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By Mr. Naughton of Clinton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 961) of Harold P. Naughton, Jr. and Mark J. Cusack relative to the appointment of veterans agents and service officers. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3382 OF 2009-2010.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act relative to the appointment of veterans agents and service officers.

*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 3 of Chapter 115 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2000  
2 Official Edition, is

3           hereby amended by deleting the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following:-

5           The Mayor of each city, except Boston, and the selectmen of each town, shall appoint a  
6 veterans' agent/veterans'

7           service officer to act for him or them in the disbursement of veterans' benefits by such  
8 city or town; provided,

9           however, that in each town having a part time veterans' agent/veterans' service officer the  
10 town clerk shall receive  
11           applications and assist applicants for veterans' benefits, and shall submit said applications  
12 to the veterans'  
13           agent/veterans' service officer. Two or more contiguous towns may, by vote of the  
14 selectmen, and subject to the  
15           approval of the commissioner, appoint one full time veterans' agent/veterans' service  
16 officer and such additional staff  
17           as necessary, and may apportion the payment of compensation among such towns. The  
18 appointment of a veterans'  
19           agent/veterans' service officer shall not create a civil service position. Any person who is  
20 appointed to the position  
21           of veterans' agent/veterans' service officer and certified by the Massachusetts Department  
22 of Veterans' Services as a  
23           trained veterans' agent/veterans' service officer and who has held such position for not  
24 less than three years, shall not  
25           be involuntarily separated and shall have the same rights and protection granted to any  
26 veteran under section 9A of  
27           chapter 30 of the General Laws, notwithstanding that his or her prior appointments were  
28 for a fixed term.