SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1496 FILED ON: 1/21/2011

SENATE . . . . . No. 298

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Katherine M. Clark

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 establishing online voter registration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Katherine M. Clark	*Fifth Middlesex*
Brian M. Ashe	*2nd Hampden*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*
Ruth B. Balser	*12th Middlesex*
Jennifer E. Benson	*37th Middlesex*
Sonia Chang-Diaz	
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*
James B. Eldridge	
Linda Dorcena Forry	*12th Suffolk*
Gloria L. Fox	*7th Suffolk*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Alice Hanlon Peisch	*14th Norfolk*
John W. Scibak	*2nd Hampshire*
Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.	*34th Middlesex*
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.	*26th Middlesex*

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By Ms. Clark, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 298) of Katherine M. Clark, Brian M. Ashe, Cory Atkins, Ruth B. Balser and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish online voter registration. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act establishing online voter registration.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws is herby amended by inserting after Section 33 the following section:-

Section 33A. The state secretary will create and maintain an online portal allowing citizens to complete an affidavit of registration online. Such registration will be transmitted by the secretary to the appropriate local registrar. The online affidavit will use the registrants' signature from the Registry of Motor Vehicles records; the Registrar of Motor Vehicles shall make appropriate provisions to facilitate the electronic transfer of the image of the signature to the Central Voter Registry. If such signature cannot be found using the online affidavit of registration form the applicant will be so informed and given the option to print the affidavit of registration, append their signature, and mail it directly to the appropriate registrar of voters. Nothing in this section shall be construed to change any registration deadline or qualification of voting.

Section 2. Section 42H of Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word “delivery”, the following words:-, "and through the online portal."