

HOUSE No. 585

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sean Garballey and Diana DiZoglio

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 on-campus election law reforms.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Sean Garballey</i> | <i>23rd Middlesex</i> |
| <i>Diana DiZoglio</i> | <i>14th Essex</i> |
| <i>Aaron Vega</i> | <i>5th Hampden</i> |
| <i>Katherine M. Clark</i> | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i> |

HOUSE No. 585

By Representatives Garballey of Arlington and DiZoglio of Methuen, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 585) of Sean Garballey and others for legislation to establish a comprehensive on-campus student voter registration civic education system . Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act establishing on-campus election law reforms.

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. The first sentence of 42 E of the General Laws as appearing in chapter 51
2 is hereby amended by striking out, “at all locations where student may register for classes” and
3 inserting in its place the words: - once within the first three weeks of each student’s entry to
4 school during fall semester or arrival on campus and before graduation in the spring. The
5 sentence: - at least one convenient location where students may receive voter registration
6 services including: affidavits of voter registration forms, personal assistance in completing
7 affidavits of voter registration, and collection and transmission of the affidavits to the appropriate
8 city or town clerk’s office shall be designated according to campus culture and logistics, is
9 inserted before “Such locations shall be published along with annual course listings for students
10 or in some other school wide publication.” The phrase : - and a prominent link to the appropriate
11 page of Office of Secretary of State’s website for individuals to learn more about voter
12 qualifications and download a voter registration affidavit will be placed on the school’s
13 webpage is added to the end of the section.

14 SECTION 2. Section 42 C of the General Laws as appearing in chapter 51 is hereby
15 amended by striking out, “in any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section” from
16 the beginning and end of the section. The first paragraph shall be amended by striking out, “voter
17 education and voluntary registration sessions shall be held by registers, assistant registrars, or
18 election commissioners and inserting in its place the words: - A permanent on-campus volunteer
19 based voter registration and civic education system shall be established according to campus
20 culture and logistics. The phrase: - twice per school year during the scheduled fall and spring
21 semester’s on-campus voter registration sessions, a non-partisan voter education program and
22 non-partisan civic engagement exercise shall be conducted according to campus culture and

23 logistics, will be inserted striking out, “one day each year between the first day in April and the
24 fifteenth day of May.” The sentence: - Non-partisan civic education forums according to campus
25 culture and logistics shall take place for all students who are eligible to vote or are qualified to
26 pre –registrar. is inserted as the last sentence of the paragraph striking out “Said sessions shall
27 take place as part of an educational assembly for all seniors.”

28 The paragraph: - Voter education shall include: how to register to vote, the proper
29 operation of voting machines, the process of voting including Help America Vote Act (HAVA)
30 voter identification requirements, the use of absentee ballots if applicable, the importance of
31 voting and media literacy, Integration of a nonpartisan civic curriculum into course work-
32 scheduling available time in lesson plans, syllabi or both that will address nonpartisan
33 contemporary civic and voting issues as they arise during the fall and spring semesters, provide
34 the opportunity for eligible students to complete and hand in either to appropriate school officials
35 or selected nonprofit voter registration agency, completed applications for voter registration, is
36 added

37 The first sentence of the second paragraph of section 42 E of the General Laws appearing
38 in chapter 51 is amended by striking out “or” between “registrars and assistant registrars and
39 inserting: - volunteer behind “assistant registrars” The word: - volunteer is also inserted behind
40 registrars in the sentence reading “The registrars shall forthwith transmit any such completed
41 affidavits of registration of the city or town where the registrant claims to reside.”

42 SECTION 3. Public high schools and public colleges within the first week of the fall
43 academic term and within the first three weeks of the spring terms shall determine the number of
44 public high schools or public college students who are sixteen or will reach the age of sixteen
45 during the academic year and obtain sufficient Voter Registration Forms as required by the
46 Office of the Secretary of State.

47 All public high schools and public colleges offering voter registration services shall
48 inform students of their right to complete a Voter Registration Form, inform students that their
49 decision to register to vote shall have no bearing on their high school or college record and shall
50 not inquire about or keep records pertaining to any student’s eligibility to vote.

51 SECTION 4. The Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State shall offer
52 public high schools, public colleges, and school districts the opportunity to use coded Voter
53 Registration Forms that identify each application as originating from a public high school or
54 public college.

55 If a public high school, public college, or school district elects to uses coded Voter
56 Registration Form, it shall be exempt from all reporting requirements.

57 The Elections Division of the Office of the Secretary of State shall make available and
58 provide for delivery of such coded applications to any public high school, public colleges, or
59 school district within the state that submits a request.

60 The appropriate City or Town Clerk's Office scanning Voter Registration Forms shall
61 capture any designated agency codes thereon and report them to the Election Division of the
62 Office of the Secretary of State.

63 SECTION 5. The voter registration applicant must be a citizen of the United States is or
64 will be at least sixteen years old when he or she submits an application to pre-registrar to vote
65 and is a resident of the country or city to which application is made.

66 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect on September first two thousand and fourteen
67 provided that the provisions of this act shall only apply to public school and public college
68 districts on and after September first two thousand and fourteen. In two thousand and fifteen the
69 act shall apply to all educational institutions.