

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James M. Murphy

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 uniformed and overseas voters.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>James M. Murphy</i>	<i>4th Norfolk</i>	<i>2/20/2014</i>
<i>Jerald A. Parisella</i>	<i>6th Essex</i>	

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Murphy of Weymouth, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of James M. Murphy and Jerald A. Parisella for legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Commonwealth to transmit ballots to uniformed and overseas voters. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

An Act relative to uniformed and overseas voters.

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 2012 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 91B, the following section:

3 Section 91C. (a) Upon receipt of a properly executed application for an absentee ballot
4 from a UOCAVA voter, a town or city clerk shall retain the application and, without delay enter
5 the application in the voter registration information system.

6

7 (b) Within 24 hours of receiving the absentee ballots or ballot file from the state
8 secretary’s office, the city or town clerk shall transmit such ballot to all UOCAVA voters for
9 whom an application was received in accordance with paragraph (a) above and shall enter the
10 date of transmission into the voter registration information system forthwith.

11 (c) If a request for an absentee ballot is received from a UOCAVA voter 45 or more days
12 before a federal election, the city or town clerk shall send the ballot and instructions to the
13 applicant no later than the day 45 days prior to the federal election using either mail or electronic
14 transmission, as requested by the voter.

15

16 (d) If a request for an absentee ballot is received from a UOCAVA voter less than 45
17 days before a federal election, the city or town clerk shall send the ballot and instructions without
18 delay using either mail or electronic transmission, as requested by the voter.

19 (e) If a request for an absentee ballot is received from a UOCAVA voter 45 or more days
20 before a federal election and the secretary has determined that the city or town clerk is unwilling
21 or unable to transmit the ballot at least 45 days before the election, the state secretary may, on
22 behalf of the city or town clerk, after notice to the city or town clerk and in accordance with the
23 voter's choice, electronically transmit or mail the appropriate absentee ballot and instructions to
24 the voter no later than the day 45 days prior to the federal election.

25 The state secretary shall enter in the voter registration information system the
26 transmission date on which absentee voters were sent ballots by the secretary pursuant to this
27 paragraph.

28 SECTION 2. The secretary may promulgate regulations to carry out this legislation.

29 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.