

SENATE No. 1729

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

John Hart, 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 appointing veterans' agents and veterans' service officers..

PETITION OF:

NAME:

John Hart, Jr.

Sal N. DiDomenico

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk

Middlesex and Suffolk

SENATE No. 1729

By Mr. Hart, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1729) of John Hart, Jr. and Sal N. DiDomenico for legislation relative to appointing veterans' agents and veterans' service officers. Veterans and Federal Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 1819 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act relative to appointing veterans' agents and veterans' 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 hereby amended by deleting the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof
3 the following:-

4 The Mayor of each city, except Boston, and the selectmen of each town, shall appoint a
5 veterans' agent/veterans' service officer to act for him or them in the disbursement of veterans'
6 benefits by such city or town; provided, however, that in each town having a part time veterans'
7 agent/veterans' service officer the town clerk shall receive applications and assist applicants for
8 veterans' benefits, and shall submit said applications to the veterans' agent/veterans' service
9 officer. Two or more contiguous towns may, by vote of the selectmen, and subject to the
10 approval of the commissioner, appoint one full time veterans' agent/veterans' service officer and
11 such additional staff as necessary, and may apportion the payment of compensation among such
12 towns. The appointment of a veterans' agent/veterans' service officer shall not create a civil
13 service position. Any person who is appointed to the position of veterans' agent/veterans' service
14 officer and certified by the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services as a trained veterans'
15 agent/veterans' service officer and who has held such position for not less than three years, shall
16 not be involuntarily separated and shall have the same rights and protection granted to any

17 veteran under section 9A of chapter 30 of the General Laws, notwithstanding that his or her prior
18 appointments were for a fixed term.