

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 1169**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Ruth B. Balsler, (BY REQUEST)***

*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 to recognize common law marriage in the Commonwealth.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Linda Bonica McMullen</i>	<i>45 Pelham St. Newton Center, MA 02459</i>	<i>1/13/2015</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>	<i>9/12/2019</i>

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By Ms. Balsler of Newton (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1169) of Linda Bonica McMullen and David M. Rogers for legislation to recognize common law marriage in the Commonwealth. The Judiciary.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 1192 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
—————

An Act to recognize common law marriage in the Commonwealth.

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

1 Chapter 207 § 59

2 Persons cohabiting and acknowledging each other as spouse, and generally reputed to be  
3 such, for 3 years shall thereafter be deemed to have been legally married.

4 Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to render any common-law marriage, otherwise  
5 lawful, invalid by reason of the failure to take out a license or follow solemnization procedures  
6 as provided by this chapter.