SENATE DOCKET, NO. 1107 FILED ON: 1/15/2015

SENATE . . . . . No. 1634

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

James B. Eldridge

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 a legislative fiscal office.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
James B. Eldridge	*Middlesex and Worcester*	
David M. Rogers	*24th Middlesex*	
Jason M. Lewis	*Fifth Middlesex*	
Carmine L. Gentile	*13th Middlesex*	
Kevin J. Kuros	*8th Worcester*	
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*	
Brian A. Joyce	*Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth*	*2/19/2015*

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SENATE . . . . . No. 1634

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1634) of James B. Eldridge, David M. Rogers, Jason M. Lewis, Carmine L. Gentile and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a legislative fiscal office. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a legislative fiscal office.

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. Chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 69 the following section:-

Section 70. (a) There shall be a permanent legislative fiscal office to serve as a service agency for the Legislature, which shall consist of a director and deputy director and staff to assist the director and deputy director. The director and deputy director shall be appointed by joint decision of the Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, Secretary of Administration and Finance, House Chairman of Ways and Means and Senate Chairman of Ways and Means. The director, deputy director and staff shall have substantial experience in financial management, accounting or other related fields.

(b) The legislative fiscal office shall research and provide assistance and analysis legislators, legislative staff and legislative committees on the fiscal impact of proposed legislation or the state budget. The findings and recommendations of the office are not binding

13 upon the Legislature, but an independent assessment of costs and proposal of statutory changes
14 to produce a more cost-sensible and effective proposal. Legislators can request that costs of a
15 proposed bill be reviewed at any time during the legislative process, and if such a review is
16 requested, the review shall be completed prior to the reporting of the bill from its current
17 committee.

18 The legislative fiscal office shall have the following responsibilities:

19 (1) Providing fiscal analysis on proposed legislation

20 (2) Analyzing Governor's proposed budget

21 (3) Following each legislative session, the office shall prepare a report detailing all
22 appropriations of Legislature including, but not limited to, data concerning final fiscal year
23 budget, supplemental budgets, bonds, tax incentives and fiscal impact of bills signed into law
24 during the legislative session.

25 (c) The funds for the operations of the legislative fiscal office shall be appropriated by
26 the Legislature from the state general fund from year to year and shall be included in and
27 constitute a separate item in the act appropriating funds for the expenses of the Legislature.

28 (d) The books and records of the legislative fiscal office shall be subject to audit by the
29 State Auditor's Office.