

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

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Aaron Michlewitz*

*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 regarding decennial division of wards and precincts in the city of Boston.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Aaron Michlewitz</i>	<i>3rd Suffolk</i>	<i>1/19/2017</i>
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	
<i>Joseph A. Boncore</i>	<i>First Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	

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

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By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 7B) of Aaron Michlewitz, Jay D. Livingstone and Joseph A. Boncore relative to decennial division of wards and precincts in the city of Boston. Election Laws.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court  
(2017-2018)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act regarding decennial division of wards and precincts in the city of Boston.

*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. Beginning in the year 2021, notwithstanding section 3 of the chapter 605 of  
2 the Acts of 1982 or any other general or special law to the contrary exempting the City of Boston  
3 from making a decennial division of its territory into wards as required by section 1 of chapter 54  
4 of the General Laws, after each decennial federal census the City of Boston, Board of Elections  
5 Commissioners may, or if the existing wards in the city do not contain, as nearly as can be  
6 ascertained, an equal number of inhabitants shall, make a new division of its territory into such  
7 number of wards as may be fixed by law.

8           SECTION 2. Beginning in the year 2021, notwithstanding section 2 of chapter  
9 220 of the Acts of 1921 or any other general or special law to the contrary exempting the City of  
10 Boston from making a decennial division of its territory into precincts as required by sections 1  
11 and 2 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, after each decennial federal census the City of Boston,  
12 Board of Elections Commissioners may, or if the existing precincts in the city do not contain, as

13 nearly as can be ascertained, an equal number of inhabitants shall, make a new division of its  
14 territory into such number of precincts as required by section 2 of chapter 54 of the General  
15 Laws.

16 SECTION 3. In the year 2021 and every tenth year thereafter, the City of  
17 Boston's Board of Election Commissioners shall submit its plan for new or unrevised wards  
18 and/or precincts to the City Council at least twenty-one days prior June 15, or whichever day so  
19 designated by the state secretary. The City Council shall vote on such plan no later than June 15,  
20 or whichever day so designated by the state secretary. After the City Council and mayor approve  
21 a new or unrevised ward and/or precinct plan, the plan shall be submitted to the city clerk who  
22 shall have seven days to give written notice to the state secretary of the number and designation  
23 of wards and precincts in accordance with section 1 of chapter 54 of the General Laws. Final  
24 approval of such plan shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in chapter 54 of the  
25 General Laws pertaining to the division of cities into wards and precincts.

26 SECTION 4. In the year 2019 and every tenth year thereafter, the City of  
27 Boston's Board of Election Commissioners shall conduct a preliminary investigation concerning  
28 the most recent maps and data on existing precincts, wards, and divisions, including the most  
29 recent data and statistics concerning the amount of inhabitants in each precinct, ward, and  
30 division at the time of the investigation. The City of Boston's Board of Election Commissioners  
31 shall report the findings of this preliminary investigation to the house and senate chairs of the  
32 joint committee on election laws by no later than February 1st of the following year.

33 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.