

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jay D. Livingstone

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 allow weekend voting in the Commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>	<i>3/20/2018</i>
<i>Mike Connolly</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2018</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/28/2018</i>
<i>James J. O'Day</i>	<i>14th Worcester</i>	<i>3/28/2018</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>	<i>3/26/2018</i>

HOUSE No.

By Mr. Livingstone of Boston, a petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Jay D. Livingstone and others for legislation to authorize voting on weekends. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to allow weekend voting 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 SECTION 1. Section 28 of chapter 53 of the General Laws is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 State primaries shall be held on the first Saturday and Sunday after the first Monday in
4 September preceding biennial state elections, and on the fourth Saturday and Sunday preceding
5 special state elections, except that primaries before special elections for senator or representative
6 in congress shall be held on the sixth Saturday and Sunday preceding said elections. If a religious
7 holiday falls on or immediately before the first Saturday and Sunday after the first Monday in
8 September in an even-numbered year, the state primary shall be held on a date set by the
9 Secretary of the Commonwealth within 7 days of the first Saturday after the first Monday in
10 September. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall publish the date change of the state
11 primary not later than February 1 of that year by: (i) providing notice of the change to the state
12 parties; (ii) filing notice with the state publications and regulations division; (iii) posting the
13 information on the website of the Secretary of the Commonwealth; and (iv) any other means

14 necessary to ensure proper notification. Presidential primaries shall be held on the first Saturday
15 and Sunday in March in any year in which presidential electors are to be elected.
16 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any town may hold its preliminary or
17 regular town elections on the same date designated as the date to hold a presidential primary, in
18 any year in which presidential electors are to be elected, provided that such election is by a ballot
19 independent of the ballot used at a presidential primary. City and town primaries before all city
20 and town elections shall be held on the twenty-eighth day preceding such elections.

21 SECTION 2. Subsection (c) of section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (c) The voting period for early voting shall run from the eleventh business day preceding
24 the general election, and from the sixth business day preceding the primary election, as defined
25 in section 28 of chapter 53, until the close of business on the business day preceding the business
26 day before the elections; provided, however, that if the eleventh business day before the general
27 election or the sixth business day before the primary election falls on a legal holiday, the early
28 voting period shall begin on the first business day prior to the legal holiday.

29 SECTION 3. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall promulgate regulations
30 necessary to implement this section.

31 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2019.