

SENATE No. 1700

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 municipal record preservation commission.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

James B. Eldridge

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Middlesex and Worcester

SENATE No. 1700

By Mr. Eldridge, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1700) of James B. Eldridge for legislation to establish a municipal record preservation commission. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act establishing a municipal record preservation commission.

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. There shall be a special commission to examine the status, maintenance,
2 preservation and storage of municipal records in the Commonwealth.

3 SECTION 2. The commission shall examine and assess the current condition of essential
4 municipal records and identify strategies and possible solutions to ameliorate the organization,
5 storage and preservation of municipal records in the Commonwealth.

6 SECTION 3. The commission shall consist of the secretary of the commonwealth or his
7 designee; a member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; a member of the
8 House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; the
9 Supervisor of Public Records; a representative from the Massachusetts Archives; a representative
10 from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; a representative from the Town
11 Clerk’s Association; a representative from the City Clerk’s Association; and a representative
12 from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The representatives from the Massachusetts

13 archives shall serve as the chairperson of the commission. The members of the commission shall
14 be appointed not later 90 days after the effective date of this act and shall serve until the
15 completion of the report.

16 SECTION 4. The commission may hold public hearings to assist in the collection and
17 evaluation of data and testimony.

18 SECTION 5. Any research, analysis or other staff support that the commission
19 reasonably requires shall be provided by the Massachusetts Archives.

20 SECTION 6. The commission shall prepare a written report detailing its findings and
21 recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry those
22 recommendations into effect. The commission shall submit its report to the governor, the
23 secretary of the commonwealth, the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, the chairs
24 of the house and senate committees on municipalities and regional government not later than 3
25 years after the effective date of this act.