

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Barbara A. L'Italien

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 ensure an accurate census count (2020 Vision).

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>5/31/2018</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>5/31/2018</i>
<i>Robert M. Koczera</i>	<i>11th Bristol</i>	<i>5/31/2018</i>
<i>Carmine L. Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/31/2018</i>
<i>Brian M. Ashe</i>	<i>2nd Hampden</i>	<i>6/5/2018</i>

SENATE No.

By Ms. L'Italien, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Barbara A. L'Italien for legislation to ensure an accurate census count (2020 Vision). Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to ensure an accurate census count (2020 Vision).

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to ensure a timely and accurate census count, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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. The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after Chapter 57 the
2 following new Chapter:-

3 Chapter 57A – Census Accuracy

4 Section 1. There is hereby established, within the office of the Secretary of State, the
5 Massachusetts Census Equality Task Force, hereinafter called the task force.

6 (a) The purpose of the task force shall be to ensure that Massachusetts censuses
7 produce an accurate count of all residents of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to:

8 (1) homeless individuals and residents of shelters

9 (2) immigrants, both documented and undocumented who may be initially unwilling
10 to complete the census due to fear of deportation of themselves, family, or friends

11 (3) residents who do not speak English

12 (4) veterans

13 (5) individuals with disabilities

14 (b) The task force shall be comprised of: The Secretary of State, or his or her
15 designee, who shall serve as chair; The Attorney General, or his or her designee; The Senate
16 Chair of the Committee on Election Laws, or his or her designee; the House Chair of the
17 Committee on Election Laws, or his or her designee; The Senate Chair of the Committee on
18 Redistricting, or his or her designee; the House Chair of the Committee on Redistricting, or his
19 or her designee; The Senate Minority Leader, or his or her designee; the Minority Leader of the
20 House of Representatives, or his or her designee; The Executive Director of the Asian American
21 Commission, or his or her designee; a representative from Citizen Information Service (CIS); a
22 representative from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; the Director of the
23 Department of Public Safety, or his or her designee; the Director of the Department of Veterans
24 Services (DVS), or his or her designee; The Commissioner of the Massachusetts Office of
25 Refugees and Immigrants (ORI), or his or her designee; a representative from the Public
26 Records Division; a representative from the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless; a
27 representative from the Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance, a representative from Greater
28 Boston Legal Services (GBLS), a representative from the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee
29 Advocacy Coalition (MIRA), a representative from the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance
30 Center; a representative from the Massachusetts Alliance of YMCAs;

31 (c) The task force shall be responsible for creating a statewide public awareness
32 campaign to educate the general public on the importance of the census and the necessity of
33 ensuring a complete and proper count.

34 (d) The task force shall investigate barriers to proper counting of all residents of the
35 Commonwealth and assess the Commonwealth's progress in preparing for upcoming censuses.
36 Said assessment shall include but not be limited to efforts designed to accurately count all
37 populations.

38 (e) The chair may appoint subcommittees in order to expedite the work of the
39 commission;

40 (f) The task force shall meet at least monthly, for the 24 months before a census, and
41 at least quarterly otherwise, or as frequently as the chair recommends.

42 (g) The task force shall file an annual report, on or before January 1, with the
43 governor, the secretary of state, the attorney general, the joint committee on election laws, and
44 the joint committee on redistricting including any recommendations for regulatory and
45 legislative action necessary to ensure an accurate count of all Massachusetts residents in
46 upcoming censuses and to provide and sustain fairness in census counting. The task force shall
47 monitor the implementation of its recommendations and update recommendations to reflect
48 current research and statewide census needs as necessary.