

HOUSE No. 653

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Dylan A. Fernandes

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 making voting obligatory and increasing turnout in elections.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>

HOUSE No. 653

By Mr. Fernandes of Falmouth, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 653) of Dylan A. Fernandes, Julian Cyr and James K. Hawkins for legislation to remove voter registration deadlines and impose a fine on eligible voters who fail to vote. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

An Act making voting obligatory and increasing turnout in elections.

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. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 34 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 34. There shall be no deadline for registering to vote for any election in
4 Massachusetts.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
6 section 25A the following section:-

7 Section 25A½. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, all eligible
8 voters in the commonwealth shall be required to cast a ballot in the November general election.

9 A fee of \$15 shall be added to the voter’s state tax liability for each November general election
10 that voter did not mail in or drop off a ballot on time. Nothing shall impede a voter’s right to
11 complete and return a ballot that does not include any actual votes for candidates. The

- 12 department of revenue in consultation with the secretary of state's office shall develop a system
- 13 to assess the fee.