

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 653**

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**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:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>1/8/2019</i>
<i>Julian Cyr</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>
<i>James K. Hawkins</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

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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.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**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.