

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

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Paul McMurtry and Michael F. Rush***

*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 relative to the quorum requirement for open town meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>5/5/2020</i>
<i>Michael F. Rush</i>	<i>Norfolk and Suffolk</i>	<i>5/5/2020</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>	<i>5/7/2020</i>
<i>Susannah M. Whipps</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>	<i>5/8/2020</i>
<i>Danielle W. Gregoire</i>	<i>4th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/8/2020</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>	<i>5/8/2020</i>
<i>John H. Rogers</i>	<i>12th Norfolk</i>	<i>5/8/2020</i>
<i>William M. Straus</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>	<i>5/8/2020</i>
<i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/14/2020</i>
<i>Maria Duaine Robinson</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>	<i>5/14/2020</i>

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By Representative McMurtry of Dedham and Senator Rush, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Paul McMurtry, Michael F. Rush and others relative to quorum requirements for open town meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Municipalities and Regional Government.

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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 relative to the quorum requirement for open town meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

*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. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, while the  
2 governor’s March 10, 2020 declaration of emergency or a re-opening phase limiting public  
3 gatherings relative to 2019 novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19 is in effect, the number  
4 of registered voters necessary to constitute a quorum at an open town meeting for the transaction  
5 of municipal business shall be reduced by two-thirds, but a smaller number may adjourn the  
6 meeting to a stated time and place.

7           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.