

SENATE No. 1831

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Julian Cyr

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 resolve:

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by special commission relative to the one-day solemnizer rule.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Julian Cyr</i> | <i>Cape and Islands</i> | |
| <i>Dean A. Tran</i> | <i>Worcester and Middlesex</i> | <i>2/28/2019</i> |
| <i>Anne M. Gobi</i> | <i>Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex</i> | <i>3/20/2019</i> |
| <i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i> | <i>8th Middlesex</i> | <i>3/20/2019</i> |
| <i>Ryan C. Fattman</i> | <i>Worcester and Norfolk</i> | <i>3/28/2019</i> |

SENATE No. 1831

By Mr. Cyr, a petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 1831) of Julian Cyr and Dean A. Tran for legislation to provide for an investigation and study by special commission relative to the one-day solemnizer rule. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

Resolve providing for an investigation and study by special commission relative to the one-day solemnizer rule.

1 **Resolved**, That a special commission is hereby established for the purposes of making an
2 investigation and study relative to the effects of Massachusetts’s one-day solemnizer rule on
3 those citizens of the commonwealth who have been designated as, or solemnized by, either a
4 justice of the peace or a one-day solemnizer. The commission shall consist of: the secretary of
5 state or a designee, whom shall serve as chair of the special commission; 1 member of the senate,
6 whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 1 member of the house, whom shall be
7 appointed by the speaker; the commissioner of public health or a designee from the registry of
8 vital records and statistics; 1 of whom shall be a justice of the probate and family court; 1 of
9 whom shall be a representative of the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association; 1 of whom shall
10 be a representative of the Massachusetts Municipal Association; 1 of whom shall be a
11 representative of the Justice of the Peace Association; and 3 persons appointed by the governor,
12 2 of whom have participated as a one-day solemnizer, and 1 of whom serves as a justice of the
13 peace.

14 The special commission shall investigate and study the effects of Massachusetts' one-day
15 solemnizer rule, including but not limited to implementation of chapter 207, section 39 of the
16 General Laws, the integrity of the Commonwealth's marriage certificate, the increased demand
17 for marriages performed by one-solemnizers, availability of justices of the peace in the
18 Commonwealth, opportunities for collaboration between justices of the peace and one-day
19 solemnizers, the code of ethics governing justices of the peace and one-day solemnizers.

20 All appointments shall be made not later than 30 days after the effective date of this
21 resolve. The chair shall meet with the commission not later than 60 days after the effective date
22 of this resolve.

23 Members shall not receive compensation for their services but may receive
24 reimbursement for the reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their responsibilities as
25 members of the commission.

26 Not later than October 15, 2019, the commission shall report to the general court the
27 result of its investigation and study and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of
28 legislation necessary to carry its recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of
29 the house of representatives and the clerk of the senate.