

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1870**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***John F. Keenan***

*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 Massachusetts time zones.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>John F. Keenan</i>	<i>Norfolk and Plymouth</i>	
<i>Thomas Emswiler</i>	<i>26 Randlett St. Quincy, MA 02170</i>	
<i>Daniel J. Hunt</i>	<i>13th Suffolk</i>	<i>2/1/2019</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1870**

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By Mr. Keenan, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 1870) of John F. Keenan, Thomas Emswiler and Daniel J. Hunt for legislation relative to Massachusetts time zones. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
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An Act relative to Massachusetts time zones.

*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 4 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by striking out  
2 section 10, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following  
3 section:-

4           Section 10. The standard time within the state shall be the time known and designated by  
5 the federal statute as “Atlantic Standard Time” and shall be exempted from the change to  
6 daylight savings time pursuant to the exemption provisions of the federal Uniform Time Act of  
7 1966, 15 U.S.C. section 260(a). And in all laws, statutes, orders, decrees, rules and regulations  
8 relating to the time of performance of any act by any officer or department of the  
9 commonwealth, or of any county, city, town or district thereof, or relating to the time in which  
10 any rights shall accrue or determine, or within which any act shall or shall not be performed by  
11 any person subject to the jurisdiction of the commonwealth, and in all the public schools and in  
12 all institutions of the commonwealth, or of any county, city, town or district thereof, and in all

13 contracts or choses in action made or to be performed in the commonwealth, it shall be  
14 understood and intended that the time shall be United States “Atlantic Standard Time” as  
15 changed by this section.

16 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this act shall take effect when the states of New Hampshire,  
17 Maine, and Rhode Island have enacted an agreement adopting “Atlantic Standard Time”.

18 SECTION 3. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the Department of  
19 Elementary and Secondary Education shall convene an educational task force to review the  
20 effect of school day start times for middle school and secondary school students. The task force  
21 shall: (i) conduct a comprehensive study including, but not limited to, the impact of school start  
22 times on student academic performance, school scheduling issues, scientific and academic  
23 findings relative to the sleep needs of adolescents; (ii) schedule and hold public hearings  
24 throughout the Commonwealth to ensure public input and comment; and (iii) make reasonable  
25 attempts at obtaining comments and suggestions from common stakeholders, that may include  
26 teachers, students, parents of students, and education policy makers. The task force shall file a  
27 report containing its findings and recommendations, including legislation necessary to carry out  
28 its recommendations, with the Joint Committee on Education not later than 12 months following  
29 the first meeting of the task force.

30 SECTION 4. Within 120 days of the effective date of this act, the governor of  
31 Massachusetts shall petition the United States Department of Transportation to include the state  
32 within the “Atlantic Standard Time” zone as provided for in the federal Uniform Time Act of  
33 1966, 15 U.S.C. sections 260 to 267.