

SENATE No. 386

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

William N. Brownsberger

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 early voting.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>Second Suffolk and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>	<i>12th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/25/2019</i>
<i>David F. DeCoste</i>	<i>5th Plymouth</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

SENATE No. 386

By Mr. Brownsberger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 386) of William N. Brownsberger, Ruth B. Balser and David F. DeCoste for legislation relative to early voting. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to early voting.

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 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
2 the following language from the Section title “application for early voting ballots;”.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
4 striking subsections (b) and (e) in their entirety.

5 SECTION 3. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
6 striking the word “eleventh” in each place it exists from subparagraph (c) and replacing it with
7 the word “sixth” .

8 SECTION 4. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking
9 the following language from subsection (h), “the following papers: (1)” and “; and (2) envelopes
10 of sufficient size to contain ballots specified in clause (1) bearing on their reverse the voter’s
11 affidavit in compliance with the requirements of subsection (j)”.

12 SECTION 5. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
13 striking the following language from subsection (i), “along with an envelope”.

14 SECTION 6. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
15 the following language to the end of subsection (m), “and the clerk’s office shall make such lists
16 available for public inspection only after the period for early voting has expired. Early Voting
17 ballots are not a public record as outlined in MGL Chapter 54, section 109.”

18 SECTION 7. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
19 striking the subsection (n) in its entirety.

20 SECTION 8. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
21 deleting the following language “applying for” and by removing “and” between “recording” and
22 “securing” and add the following “and tabulating” after “securing” to the end of subsection (o).

23 SECTION 9. Chapter 54, Section 25B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
24 deleting the language contained in paragraph (q) in its entirety.

25 SECTION 10. Chapter 54, Section 25 B of the General Laws is hereby amended by
26 adding a new subsection (r) which shall read as follows: “ (r) After voting an early voting
27 ballot, voters shall deposit ballots directly into a ballot box or tabulator. Tabulation of results
28 will be in accordance with sections 105 and 105a of chapter 54. Ballots that have been placed
29 into a tabulator in accordance with this provision are considered cast ballots at the time they are
30 placed into the tabulator. Cast ballots cannot be recast or removed for any reason .“.