

SENATE No. 407

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Donald F. Humason, Jr., (BY REQUEST)

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 allowing delivery of ballot question petitions to the Secretary of State by registrars and restricting payments per signature.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Kirstin Beatty

SENATE No. 407

By Mr. Humason (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 407) of Kirstin Beatty for legislation to allow delivery of ballot question petitions to the Secretary of State by registrars and restricting payments per signature. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act allowing delivery of ballot question petitions to the Secretary of State by registrars and restricting payments per signature.

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 53 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by striking out, in
2 Section 22A, as appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, the third sentence and inserting in place
3 thereof the following paragraphs:-

4 Petition circulators shall not be paid anything of value per signature gathered, although
5 this shall not prohibit payment of salary and expenses that are not related to the number of
6 signatures obtained. Each initiative and referendum petition shall prominently state whether the
7 petition circulator is paid to circulate petitions and paid petition circulators shall wear a badge
8 informing the public that the petition is being circulated by a paid circulator.

9 Registrars shall provide a receipt in writing for each initiative or referendum petition
10 submitted to and received by them. In no case shall any signatures be denied merely because of

11 messy extraneous marking upon the forms for initiative or referendum petitions, so long as the
12 information necessary for confirming signatures remains legible.

13 Based on the decision of the original 10 signatories of each petition, printed on the
14 petition shall be a notice as to whether Registrar's shall deliver petitions directly to the Secretary
15 of State or return such petitions only on receiving written receipts or other identification
16 acceptable to the registrars.