

**SENATE . . . . . No. 423**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Rebecca L. Rausch***

*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 to expand voter access.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex</i>	
<i>Carmin Lawrence Gentile</i>	<i>13th Middlesex</i>	<i>1/21/2019</i>
<i>Mindy Domb</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>	<i>1/31/2019</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 423**

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By Ms. Rausch, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 423) of Rebecca L. Rausch, Carmine Lawrence Gentile and Mindy Domb for legislation to expand voter access. Election Laws.

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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 to expand voter access.

*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. Section 25B of Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended as follows:-

3 Subsection (a) of said Section 25B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out  
4 the word “biennial” in line 3.

5 Subsection (c) of said Section 25B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out  
6 the word “general” in line 16.

7 Subsection (h) of said Section 25B, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out  
8 the word “biennial” in line 49.

9 SECTION 2. Section 86 of Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016  
10 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the title and lines 1 through 14 and inserting  
11 in place thereof the following-

12           Section 86. Absentee ballots

13           Any voter may request an absentee ballot. No voter shall be required to provide a reason  
14 or justification for the request. Any voter whose request for an official absentee ballot has been  
15 filed with the city or town clerk as provided in section eighty-one of this chapter, and certified  
16 under section ninety-one of this chapter, may vote in accordance with sections eighty-seven to  
17 one hundred and three of this chapter, inclusive.

18           SECTION 3. Section 89 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
19 by striking out the word “Applications” in the title and inserting in place thereof the following  
20 word: “Requests”.

21           SECTION 4. Section 89 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
22 by striking out the word “application” in lines 3, 4, 11, 23, 25, 27, 32, and 33 and inserting in  
23 place thereof the following word: “request”.

24           SECTION 5. Section 89 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
25 by striking out the word “apply” in line 30 and inserting in place thereof the following word:  
26 “request”.

27           SECTION 6. Section 89 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
28 by striking out the word “applicant” in line 31 and inserting in place thereof the following word:  
29 “requestor”.

30           SECTION 7. Section 91 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
31 by striking out the word “Applications” in the title and inserting in place thereof “Requests”.

32 SECTION 8. Section 91 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
33 by striking out the word “application” in lines 1, 7, 8, 14, 20-21, 22, 24, 26, and 33 and inserting  
34 in place thereof “request”.

35 SECTION 9. Section 91 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
36 by striking out the words “to make an application for” in line 11.

37 SECTION 10. Section 91 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
38 by striking out the word “applicant” in lines 30, 34, and 38 and inserting in place thereof  
39 “requestor”.

40 SECTION 11. Section 91 of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
41 by striking out the word “applications” in lines 28 and 41 and inserting in place thereof  
42 “requests”.

43 SECTION 12. Section 91A of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
44 amended by striking out the word “Applications” in the title and inserting in place thereof  
45 “Requests”.

46 SECTION 13. Section 91A of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
47 amended by striking out the word “qualifies” in line 2 and inserting in place thereof “requests”.

48 SECTION 14. Section 91A of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
49 amended by striking out the word “apply” in line 4 and inserting in place thereof “request”.

50 SECTION 15. Section 91A of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
51 amended by striking out the word “application” in line 8 and inserting in place thereof “request”.

52 SECTION 16. Section 91A of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
53 amended by striking out the word “Applications” in line 21 and inserting in place thereof  
54 “Requests”.

55 SECTION 17. Section 91C of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
56 amended by striking out the word “application” in the title and inserting in place thereof  
57 “request”.

58 SECTION 18. Section 91C of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
59 amended by striking out the word “application” in lines 1, 4, and 8 and inserting in place thereof  
60 “request”.

61 SECTION 19. Section 91C of said Chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further  
62 amended by striking out the word “applicant” in line 13 and inserting in place thereof  
63 “requestor”.