

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3152**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Denise C. Garlick***

*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 modernize participation in public meetings.**

PETITION OF:

| NAME:                           | DISTRICT/ADDRESS:                      | DATE ADDED:      |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------|
| <i>Denise C. Garlick</i>        | <i>13th Norfolk</i>                    | <i>2/18/2021</i> |
| <i>Mindy Domb</i>               | <i>3rd Hampshire</i>                   | <i>2/23/2021</i> |
| <i>Jason M. Lewis</i>           | <i>Fifth Middlesex</i>                 | <i>2/23/2021</i> |
| <i>Christina A. Minicucci</i>   | <i>14th Essex</i>                      | <i>2/23/2021</i> |
| <i>David M. Rogers</i>          | <i>24th Middlesex</i>                  | <i>2/23/2021</i> |
| <i>John Barrett, III</i>        | <i>1st Berkshire</i>                   | <i>2/23/2021</i> |
| <i>Sarah K. Peake</i>           | <i>4th Barnstable</i>                  | <i>2/24/2021</i> |
| <i>Jack Patrick Lewis</i>       | <i>7th Middlesex</i>                   | <i>2/24/2021</i> |
| <i>Steven C. Owens</i>          | <i>29th Middlesex</i>                  | <i>2/24/2021</i> |
| <i>David Paul Linsky</i>        | <i>5th Middlesex</i>                   | <i>2/24/2021</i> |
| <i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>       | <i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i> | <i>2/24/2021</i> |
| <i>Carmine Lawrence Gentile</i> | <i>13th Middlesex</i>                  | <i>2/24/2021</i> |
| <i>Adam J. Scanlon</i>          | <i>14th Bristol</i>                    | <i>2/25/2021</i> |
| <i>Paul McMurtry</i>            | <i>11th Norfolk</i>                    | <i>2/25/2021</i> |
| <i>James J. O'Day</i>           | <i>14th Worcester</i>                  | <i>2/25/2021</i> |
| <i>William C. Galvin</i>        | <i>6th Norfolk</i>                     | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Tram T. Nguyen</i>           | <i>18th Essex</i>                      | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Josh S. Cutler</i>           | <i>6th Plymouth</i>                    | <i>2/26/2021</i> |

|                                    |                                      |                  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Kate Lipper-Garabedian</i>      | <i>32nd Middlesex</i>                | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Adrian C. Madaro</i>            | <i>1st Suffolk</i>                   | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Danillo A. Sena</i>             | <i>37th Middlesex</i>                | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf</i> | <i>17th Worcester</i>                | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>        | <i>13th Bristol</i>                  | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Mary S. Keefe</i>               | <i>15th Worcester</i>                | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>James B. Eldridge</i>           | <i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>       | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Michael S. Day</i>              | <i>31st Middlesex</i>                | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Erika Uyterhoeven</i>           | <i>27th Middlesex</i>                | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Michelle M. DuBois</i>          | <i>10th Plymouth</i>                 | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Peter Capano</i>                | <i>11th Essex</i>                    | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>James K. Hawkins</i>            | <i>2nd Bristol</i>                   | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Jon Santiago</i>                | <i>9th Suffolk</i>                   | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Andres X. Vargas</i>            | <i>3rd Essex</i>                     | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Michelle L. Ciccolo</i>         | <i>15th Middlesex</i>                | <i>2/26/2021</i> |
| <i>Alice Hanlon Peisch</i>         | <i>14th Norfolk</i>                  | <i>3/2/2021</i>  |
| <i>Michael P. Kushmerek</i>        | <i>3rd Worcester</i>                 | <i>3/3/2021</i>  |
| <i>Walter F. Timilty</i>           | <i>Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth</i> | <i>3/8/2021</i>  |
| <i>Daniel Cahill</i>               | <i>10th Essex</i>                    | <i>3/8/2021</i>  |
| <i>Steven Ultrino</i>              | <i>33rd Middlesex</i>                | <i>3/8/2021</i>  |
| <i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>           | <i>9th Middlesex</i>                 | <i>3/8/2021</i>  |
| <i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>       | <i>20th Middlesex</i>                | <i>3/9/2021</i>  |
| <i>Ruth B. Balsler</i>             | <i>12th Middlesex</i>                | <i>3/15/2021</i> |
| <i>John J. Mahoney</i>             | <i>13th Worcester</i>                | <i>3/15/2021</i> |
| <i>Sean Garballey</i>              | <i>23rd Middlesex</i>                | <i>3/19/2021</i> |
| <i>Christine P. Barber</i>         | <i>34th Middlesex</i>                | <i>3/19/2021</i> |
| <i>Daniel R. Carey</i>             | <i>2nd Hampshire</i>                 | <i>3/19/2021</i> |
| <i>Steven G. Xiarhos</i>           | <i>5th Barnstable</i>                | <i>3/22/2021</i> |
| <i>Vanna Howard</i>                | <i>17th Middlesex</i>                | <i>3/23/2021</i> |
| <i>Jacob R. Oliveira</i>           | <i>7th Hampden</i>                   | <i>3/23/2021</i> |
| <i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>           | <i>21st Middlesex</i>                | <i>3/25/2021</i> |
| <i>Jay D. Livingstone</i>          | <i>8th Suffolk</i>                   | <i>3/30/2021</i> |
| <i>Tami L. Gouveia</i>             | <i>14th Middlesex</i>                | <i>4/4/2021</i>  |
| <i>Paul F. Tucker</i>              | <i>7th Essex</i>                     | <i>4/5/2021</i>  |
| <i>Kay Khan</i>                    | <i>11th Middlesex</i>                | <i>4/8/2021</i>  |
| <i>Richard M. Haggerty</i>         | <i>30th Middlesex</i>                | <i>4/9/2021</i>  |
| <i>Harriette L. Chandler</i>       | <i>First Worcester</i>               | <i>4/9/2021</i>  |

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3152**

By Ms. Garlick of Needham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3152) of Denise C. Garlick and others for legislation to further regulate the participation in public meetings. State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act to modernize participation in public meetings.

*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 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws is hereby amended by

2 inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

3 “Adequate, alternative means of public access”, measures or means that provide

4 transparency and permit timely and effective remote public access to the deliberations of a public

5 body; provided, however, such means include but are not limited to providing public access

6 through telephone, internet, or satellite-enabled audio or video conferencing or any other

7 technology that enables the public to clearly follow and participate in the proceedings of the

8 public body as they are occurring, and must be available without any subscription, toll, or similar

9 charge; provided, further, where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the

10 public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or

11 by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access

12 must provide for such participation.

13 SECTION 2. Section 20 of said chapter 30A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
14 striking out paragraph (a) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

15 (a) Except as provided in section 21, all meetings of a public body shall be open to the  
16 public in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, and provide  
17 adequate, alternative means of public access.

18 SECTION 3. Section 20 of said chapter 30A, as so appearing, is hereby further amended  
19 by inserting at the end thereof the following paragraph:-

20 (i) A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts  
21 is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the  
22 proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may  
23 request a hardship waiver from the attorney general's office. If such waiver is granted, the  
24 municipal public body shall post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript,  
25 recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon  
26 conclusion of the proceedings, and in any event within 10 business days. This paragraph shall  
27 not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or  
28 a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the  
29 public.

30 SECTION 4. Section 22 of said chapter 30A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
31 inserting at the end of the first paragraph the following sentence:-

32 The minutes shall note the adequate, alternative means of public access to the meeting,  
33 pursuant to paragraph (a) of section 20.