

HOUSE No. 802

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 examining election reform efforts in the 2020 election cycle.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>	<i>2/18/2021</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Norman J. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>	<i>2/25/2021</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>	<i>3/11/2021</i>
<i>Mathew J. Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>	<i>3/23/2021</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>	<i>3/31/2021</i>

HOUSE No. 802

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 802) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to voting options implemented in the 2020 election cycle. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to examining election reform efforts in the 2020 election cycle.

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. Notwithstanding any general provisions or special laws to the contrary,
2 there is hereby established a commission to study the effects drawn from the implementation of
3 Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020. The study shall include, but not be limited to: the change in the
4 number of voters who turned out to vote in the 2020 primary and general elections compared
5 with that of past election cycles, the use of each voting option compared with past election
6 cycles, the impact on voter accessibility for all methods of voting, the change in the number of
7 required poll and election workers for each municipality, the costs related to security for mail-in
8 balloting and election day voting, and any change in the level of voting irregularities as
9 compared with past election cycles. The commission shall provide a financial analysis of the cost
10 associated with the implementation and execution of each method of voting during the 2020
11 election cycle along with a comparative analysis, which provides information on previous
12 election costs. The commission shall also consider whether it would be advantageous for the

13 Commonwealth to permanently extend the number of voting options for federal, state, county,
14 and municipal elections for future election cycles. In doing so, the commission shall consider the
15 constitutionality of a permanent change to mail-in voting procedures.

16 The commission shall consist of thirteen members: the secretary of state or a designee,
17 the president of the senate or a designee, the speaker of the house or a designee, the senate
18 minority leader or a designee, the house minority leader or a designee, the chairs of the
19 committee on election laws or two designees, the director of the office of campaign and political
20 finance or a designee, the chairs of the Democratic and Republican parties of Massachusetts or
21 two designees, and three members to be selected by the Governor, one of which shall be a
22 professor of political science, one of which shall be a representative of a grassroots advocacy
23 organization based in Massachusetts, and one of which shall be a town clerk. The office of the
24 secretary of state and its subdivisions shall provide technical support to the commission. The
25 commission shall meet not less than twelve times. The commission shall draw expert testimony
26 from voter stakeholders during their deliberations including, but not limited to: the ACLU of
27 Massachusetts, Common Cause Massachusetts, MassVOTE, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, the
28 Pioneer Institute, the Beacon Hill Institute, the Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance, and the League of
29 Women Voters. The commission shall file a report with the legislature on their findings and any
30 recommendations by December 31, 2021.