

SENATE No. 477

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis

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 by making mail-in voting permanent.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>	<i>2/5/2021</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>	<i>3/8/2021</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>	<i>6/28/2021</i>

SENATE No. 477

By Mr. Lewis, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 477) of Jason M. Lewis, Kenneth I. Gordon and James B. Eldridge for legislation to expand voter access by making mail-in voting permanent. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to expand voter access by making mail-in voting permanent.

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 25b of chapter 54 is hereby amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting in
2 place thereof:-

3 (b) Any qualified voter may opt to early vote by mail by filing a request electronically or
4 by mail with their local election official in a form prescribed by the state secretary. Any form of
5 written or electronic communication evidencing a desire to have an early voting ballot be sent for
6 use for voting at an election shall be given the same effect as an application made in the form
7 prescribed by the state secretary. No application shall be deemed to be seasonably filed unless it
8 is received in the office of the city or town clerk or registrars of voters before noon on the last
9 day of the early voting period as prescribed in subsection (c).

10 A voter in receipt of an early voting ballot for any election may complete and return the
11 ballot by: (i) delivering it in person to the office of the appropriate city or town clerk; (ii)

- 12 dropping it in a secured municipal drop box; or (iii) mailing it to the appropriate city or town
- 13 clerk.