HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2250 FILED ON: 1/19/2023

HOUSE . . . . . No. 662

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Antonio F. D. Cabral and William M. Straus

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 polling place security and integrity.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
Antonio F. D. Cabral	*13th Bristol*	*1/19/2023*
William M. Straus	*10th Bristol*	*1/25/2023*
Christopher Hendricks	*11th Bristol*	*1/26/2023*
Paul A. Schmid III	*8th Bristol*	*2/1/2023*
Vanna Howard	*17th Middlesex*	*2/1/2023*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 662

By Representatives Cabral of New Bedford and Straus of Mattapoisett, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 662) of Antonio F. D. Cabral, William M. Straus and others relative to polling place security and integrity. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)

An Act relative to polling place security and integrity.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out section 72 and inserting in place thereof the following section:

Section 72. (a) The board or officer in charge of the police force of each city and town shall detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables for each building that contains the polling place for one or more precincts at every election therein to preserve order and to protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections; provided further, that this subsection may apply to section 25B at the discretion of the election officers and registrars for a city or town.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, no county or state law enforcement officers, including but not limited to sheriffs, special sheriffs, and deputy sheriffs subject to chapter 37, officers employed or supervised thereby, and persons acting on their behalf, shall be permitted on the premises of a polling place or within 150 feet of a polling place

13 to preserve order or to protect the election officers and supervisors from m any interference with
14 their duties or to aid in enforcing the laws relating to elections without the express written
15 approval of both the secretary of public safety and security and the board or officer in charge of
16 the police force of the city or town; provided further, that this subsection shall also apply to
17 section 25B.

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