

HOUSE No. 695

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Steven S. Howitt

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 increase the safety and security of unattended ballot boxes.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: | DATE ADDED: |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Steven S. Howitt</i> | <i>4th Bristol</i> | <i>1/19/2023</i> |
| <i>Joseph D. McKenna</i> | <i>18th Worcester</i> | <i>1/31/2023</i> |

HOUSE No. 695

By Representative Howitt of Seekonk, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 695) of Steven S. Howitt and Joseph D. McKenna for legislation to increase the safety and security of unattended ballot boxes. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to increase the safety and security of unattended ballot boxes.

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

1 Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting after Section 71A the following new Section:-

3 Section 71B. Surveillance of Unattended Ballot Drop Boxes

4 (a) Every election officer in a city or town shall provide 24-hour video surveillance of
5 each unattended ballot drop box within their jurisdiction, and shall post a sign on or near each
6 drop box indicating that it is under constant surveillance.

7 (b) The cameras used for surveillance: (1) may be motion-activated, (2) shall record
8 footage, and (3) shall be operational during all types of elections.

9 (c) The footage recorded: (1) may be stored in a cloud storage or physical location, as
10 determined by the city or town, and (2) shall be retained for a minimum of 22 months after each
11 election it records.