

HOUSE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul McMurtry and David F. DeCoste

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 preserving the ancient privileges of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>	<i>1/16/2025</i>

HOUSE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 4097 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act relative to preserving the ancient privileges of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

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. Chapter 33 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 4, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:

3 Section 4. Organization, composition. The active or organized militia shall be composed
4 of volunteers, and shall comprise the aides-de-camp of the commander-in-chief, the state staff,
5 the armed forces of the commonwealth, as defined in section 10, the National Lancers, the 54th
6 Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment, the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of
7 Massachusetts, and the retired list. The organized militia shall constitute the military division of
8 the executive branch of the Commonwealth.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 33 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting the
10 following section:

11 Section 4C. Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. The Ancient
12 and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts shall retain its ancient privileges as an
13 organized military company, as prescribed by the act of congress known as the National Defense
14 Act, subject, nevertheless, to all duties required by the law of militia. The Ancient and Honorable
15 Artillery Company shall be organized as the commander-in-chief directs and retain its name and
16 the right to wear distinctive uniforms as may be approved from time to time by the commander-
17 in-chief. It shall retain its constitution and by-laws, including its methods of selecting its officers
18 and conducting its internal affairs, in so far as these are consistent with the laws of the
19 commonwealth and the laws of the United States, and shall serve as a ceremonial honor guard
20 for the commander-in-chief at state functions and otherwise as directed by the commander-in-
21 chief.

22 SECTION 3. Chapter 33 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
23 132, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition.