

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

None

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 strengthen representation and promote democratic, transparent, and efficient lawmaking.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	
<i>John Lippitt</i>	
<i>Mary Connaughton</i>	
<i>Peter Enrich</i>	
<i>Scotia Hille</i>	
<i>Jay Kaufman</i>	
<i>Jeanne Kempthorne</i>	
<i>Jennifer Nassour</i>	
<i>Jordan Berg Powers</i>	
<i>Lisa Baci</i>	
<i>Elizabeth Bradt</i>	
<i>Douglas Cannon</i>	
<i>Cathleen Cavell</i>	
<i>Jeanne Krieger</i>	
<i>Mary Ann Stewart</i>	

SENATE No.

A petition (accompanied by bill) of Jonathan Hecht, John Lippitt, Mary Connaughton, Peter Enrich and others for legislation to strengthen representation and promote democratic, transparent, and efficient lawmaking.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to strengthen representation and promote democratic, transparent, and efficient lawmaking.

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 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 9B, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following new
3 section:-

4 Section 9B.

5 (a) The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each
6 receive for each regular annual session additional regular compensation equal to 75% of the
7 amount calculated pursuant to Article CXVIII.

8 (b) The chair of the senate committee on ways and means, the chair of the house
9 committee on ways and means, and the floor leader of each of the major political parties in the
10 senate and house of representatives shall each receive for each regular annual session additional
11 regular compensation equal to 50% of the amount calculated pursuant to Article CXVIII.

12 (c) The assistant floor leader and the second assistant floor leader of each of the major
13 political parties in the senate and house of representatives, the third assistant floor leader of the
14 minority party in the senate and the house of representatives, the vice chair of the senate
15 committee on ways and means, the vice chair of the house committee on ways and means, the
16 ranking minority member of the senate committees on ways and means, and the ranking minority
17 member of the house committees on ways and means shall each receive for each regular annual
18 session additional regular compensation equal to 33% of the amount calculated pursuant to
19 Article CXVIII.

20 (d) The senate chair and the house chair of committees established by the joint rules of
21 the senate and house of representatives to which more than fifty petitions are referred by the
22 senate and the house of representatives before March 1 of the first year of a biennial session of
23 the general court shall each receive for each regular annual session additional regular
24 compensation equal to 33% of the amount calculated pursuant to Article CXVIII.

25 (e) Senators receiving additional regular compensation pursuant to subsection (b) or (c)
26 of this section who are members of one or more committees the chairs of which are eligible to be
27 paid additional regular compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, senators
28 receiving additional regular compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section who are
29 members of more than one committee the chairs of which are eligible to be paid additional
30 regular compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, and representatives receiving no
31 additional regular compensation pursuant to subsections (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section who are
32 members of one or more committees the chairs of which are eligible to be paid additional regular
33 compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall each receive for each regular annual
34 session additional regular compensation equal to 20% of the amount calculated pursuant to

35 Article CXVIII; provided further that senators receiving no additional regular compensation
36 pursuant to subsections (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section who are members of more than four
37 committees the chairs of which are eligible to be paid additional regular compensation pursuant
38 to subsection (d) of this section shall each receive for each regular annual session additional
39 regular compensation equal to 40% of the amount calculated pursuant to Article CXVIII;
40 provided however that no senator shall receive additional regular compensation for service in
41 more than 2 positions and no representative shall receive additional regular compensation for
42 service in more than 1 position.

43 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each member of the general court shall
44 be paid that member's compensation for each session on a bi-weekly basis. Compensation shall
45 include any amounts a member is entitled to pursuant to Article CXVIII, this section, section 9C
46 or as otherwise established by law.

47 (g) Each member of the general court receiving additional regular compensation pursuant
48 to subsections (a), (b), (c) or (d) of this section shall be paid 50% of that member's additional
49 regular compensation for each session on a bi-weekly basis.

50 (h)(1) Upon certification by the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of
51 representatives pursuant to subsection (i)(1) of this section, each member of the general court
52 receiving additional regular compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be paid
53 50% of that member's additional regular compensation for the first year of a biennial session of
54 the general court in the last bi-weekly payment in such year.

55 (2) Upon certification by the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of
56 representatives pursuant to subsection (i)(2) of this section, each member of the general court

57 receiving additional regular compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be paid
58 50% of that member's additional regular compensation for the second year of a biennial session
59 of the general court in the last bi-weekly payment in such year.

60 (i)(1) On the third Monday in December of the first year of a biennial session of the
61 general court, the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives shall jointly
62 examine the records of each committee the chairs of which are eligible to be paid additional
63 regular compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. For each such committee, if the
64 records document that as of that date the committee has held a public hearing and a public mark-
65 up session on each bill referred to it before November 1 of such year and that every report filed
66 by the committee has been approved by a vote of a majority of the members of the committee at
67 a public meeting at which a quorum was present, the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the
68 house of representatives shall so certify jointly. Such certification shall constitute the
69 certification required pursuant to subsection (h)(1) of this section to pay additional regular
70 compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

71 (2) On the last Friday in May of the second year of a biennial session of the general court,
72 the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives shall jointly examine the
73 records of committees the chairs of which are eligible to be paid additional regular compensation
74 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. For each such committee, if the records document that
75 the committee has held a public hearing and a public mark-up session on each bill referred to it
76 before April 15 of such year and has filed a report on each such bill approved by a vote of a
77 majority of the members of the committee at a public meeting at which a quorum was present,
78 the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives shall so certify jointly. Such

79 certification shall constitute the certification required pursuant to subsection (h)(2) of this section
80 to pay additional regular compensation pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.

81 (3) On each of the dates specified in subsections (i)(1) and (i)(2) of this section, the clerk
82 of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives shall calculate a compliance rate for
83 each of the first year and the second year of a biennial session of the general court. For purposes
84 of this subsection, the compliance rate for each such year is defined as the percentage of
85 committees the chairs of which are eligible to be paid additional regular compensation pursuant
86 to subsection (d) of this section for which the clerk of the senate and the clerk of the house of
87 representatives have issued a certification for such year pursuant to subsection (h)(1) or (h)(2) of
88 this section.

89 (j) Each member of the general court receiving additional regular compensation pursuant
90 to subsections (a), (b) or (c) of this section shall be paid in the last bi-weekly payment in each
91 regular annual session the percentage of that member's additional regular compensation for each
92 session equal to 50% multiplied by the compliance rate as defined in subsection (i)(3) of this
93 section.

94 (k) Each member of the general court who serves in a position for which additional
95 regular compensation is paid pursuant to this section for a period less than an entire biennial
96 session of the general court shall receive such additional regular compensation prorated for the
97 time of that person's service in that position.