

By Mr. Landry of Waltham, petition of Marie J. Gilligan for legislation to designate the poem "Massachusetts — A Star in Freedom's Heart" as the poem of the Commonwealth. State Administration.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine.

AN ACT DESIGNATING THE POEM "MASSACHUSETTS — A STAR IN FREEDOM'S HEART" AS THE POEM OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

*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. The poem "Massachusetts — A Star in Freedom's Heart", shall be the poem of the commonwealth.

### MASSACHUSETTS A STAR IN FREEDOM'S HEART

Your spirit, a bright star in freedom's heart,  
Creates heritage holy; soul sublime  
Citizens' courage and honor impart  
Chosen charisma; destiny through time.  
Historic horizons mark you with glory  
Humanity's quest has christened your creed,  
God and truth, ideals that Pilgrim story  
Bequeathed as covenant to brotherhood's need.  
Peace under freedom is symbol on shield,  
Liberty the dream from which spirit was spun,  
Justice the tenet blessing commonweal  
To birth liberty; a great hymn begun.  
O beautiful Bay State from cherished dream,  
Came your gift of freedom; democracy's theme.

Boston is known from nation to nation  
As capital with a spirit unique,  
Freedom and culture; art, education  
Enhance lustered image; aura replete.  
The chaste mayflower, state blossom is found,  
Fragile and fragrant 'neath mossy vined trees

The verdant terrain with beauty abounds  
And coastline is cooled by Atlantic sea.  
Cranberry bogs; orchards of apple trees  
Yield spicy berry and fruited delight,  
From hillside and dale to salt scented sea  
Massachusetts portrays a lovely sight.

The Freedom Trail calls the capital home,  
Across the Frog Pond shines the State House dome.

Universities, church spires, ancient niched,  
With stained lanes and legacies are entwined  
Indians, pillories and sailing ships  
Created centuries of state's design.  
Soldiers and sailors; teachers and statesmen  
Their talents bestowed in service esteemed,  
From each generation the citizens  
Fashioned the Bay State from glorious dream.  
Aspirations hallow tenets through time,  
Reverence strengthens the cast of its mold  
Posterity blesses the spirit divine,  
Destiny inspires; mingling new and old.

Massachusetts, bright star in freedom's shrine,  
Your sacred spirit is covenant that binds.

Submitted as a State Poem for Massachusetts by:

MARIE J. GILLIGAN,  
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- 1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon the filing with the
- 2 state secretary of a properly executed transfer of the copyright
- 3 to said poem to the commonwealth.