

By Mr. Lawrence of New Bedford, petition of Denis Lawrence and another for legislation to establish procedures for filing home rule petitions, so-called. Local Affairs.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CRITERIA FOR "HOME RULE PETITIONS" SO-CALLED.

*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 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out  
2 Section 8A, as most recently amended by Chapter 896 of the Acts  
3 of 1973, and inserting in place thereof the following section:—

4 *Section 8A.* A petition filed or approved by the voters of a city  
5 or town, or the mayor or city council or other legislative body of a  
6 city, or the town meeting or other legislative body of a town, or a  
7 district established with the existing city or town boundaries, for  
8 submission to the General Court pursuant to the provisions of  
9 Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments to the Constitu-  
10 tion of the Commonwealth shall be sent by the city or town clerk,  
11 sealed, indicating the number voting in favor of such filing or  
12 approval and the number opposed, if such vote is tabulated, to a  
13 member of the General Court for submission to the House or  
14 Senate Clerk.

15 (a) said petition, to be considered by town meeting or other  
16 legislative body shall be a warrant article, and the form of said  
17 article shall be substantially as follows: "To see if the town will vote  
18 to authorize the board of selectmen to petition the General Court  
19 under the provisions of Section 8 of Article 89 of the Amendments  
20 to the Constitution for an act (insert brief explanation, title or copy  
21 of proposed petition)".

22 (b) said petition filed by the mayor and city council or other  
23 legislative body shall be an order from the city council, and the  
24 form of said order shall be substantially as follows:

25 “Ordered, the city council of the city of \_\_\_\_\_ petition the  
26 General Court under the provisions of Section 8 of Article 89 of the  
27 Amendments to the Constitution for an act (insert brief explana-  
28 tion, title or copy of proposed petition)

29 Approved \_\_\_\_\_”

30 Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

31 (c) said petition, filed by a district established with the existing  
32 city or town boundaries, shall be an article of a district meeting,  
33 and the form of said article shall be substantially as follows:

34 “To see if the district will vote to approve the filing of a petition  
35 in the General Court under the provisions of Section 8 of Article 89  
36 of the Amendments to the Constitution for an act (insert brief  
37 explanation, title or copy of proposed petition).”

1 SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect July 1, 1981.