

By Mr. Magnani of Framingham, petition of David P. Magnani relative to the Silver-Haired Legislature. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE.

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 15A of the General Laws, is hereby
2 amended by adding the following section: —

3 Section 20. There shall be a program, to be known as the silver-
4 haired legislature, administered by the board of regents for the
5 purpose of training elderly citizens of the commonwealth as
6 advocates representing the elderly population of the common-
7 wealth. There shall be a silver-haired senate of forty members and
8 a silver-haired house of representatives of one hundred and sixty
9 members, elected by their peers, as provided in the rules and
10 regulations established by the board of regents, from districts
11 corresponding as nearly as possible to the senatorial and
12 representative districts, which districts shall be set up by said
13 board. Membership in said silver-haired legislature shall be
14 restricted to individuals who have attained the age of sixty years
15 or more at the time of their election. The number of terms that
16 a member of the Silver-Haired Legislature may serve consecutively
17 shall be limited to two.

18 The board of regents, subject to appropriation, shall appoint
19 a coordinator to administer said program. Said coordinator shall
20 consult with the members of said silver-haired legislature
21 regarding the operation of said program.

22 The board of regents shall promulgate rules and regulations
23 governing the operation of said program and shall expend such
24 funds as may be appropriated for the purpose of elections, training
25 sessions or such related activities as the board deems appropriate.

1 SECTION 2. Within sixty days from the effective date of this
2 act, the board of regents shall conduct a special election in those
3 legislative districts where vacancies currently exist. The election
4 of members to the silver-haired legislature next following shall be
5 held in April, nineteen hundred and eighty-seven and every two
6 years thereafter.