



MASSACHUSETTS BAY CONSTABLES ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 531, READING, MA 01867

TELEPHONE: 781-944-1191 - FAX: 781-337-5670

WEBSITE: WWW.CONSTABLES-MBCA.ORG

NOTIFICATION TO MUNICIPALITIES, IN RE: MASS HOUSE BILL NO. 2252

I am writing to inform you of a very serious matter affecting the position of municipal constables in Massachusetts. State Representative Daniel Cahill of Lynn has filed House Bill No. 2252. If this bill, all 12 pages of it should it become law it would strip away most of the powers and duties of municipal constables in Massachusetts. It would virtually eliminate the municipal office of constable as we know it today. You can find and read H.2252 at <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/H2252> on the internet.

We believe this legislation to be thoughtless, misguided and without any real justification. To the best of our knowledge there was no input whatsoever requested from any municipalities or constables in drafting this legislation. Therefore, we are calling upon all municipalities in Massachusetts to contact Rep. Daniel Cahill whose State House email address is daniel.cahill@mahouse.gov to express their concerns and opposition to this legislation. H.2252 will eventually be heard at the State House before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary who you can also contact to express your concerns and opposition to H.2252. The email contact info for the Joint Judiciary Committee chairpersons is as follows:

Senate Chairman is Sen. William N. Brownsberger, William.brownsberger@masenate.gov

House Chairwoman is Rep. Claire D. Cronin, Claire.cronin@mahouse.gov

You can also contact your own State Senators and State Representatives to express your opposition to H.2252. In addition seeing that constables are elected or appointed municipal officers under the provisions of MGL Chap.41, Sect.1 we suggest you also contact Geoff Beckwith the CEO of the Mass. Municipal Association relative to opposing H.2252. Geoff's email address is gbeckwith@mma.org.

Municipal constables have honorably served their communities since colonial times and are an equally important part of today's Massachusetts legal system. If you were to compare any problems concerning wrongdoing or public scandals involving municipal constables over the years to other Massachusetts law enforcement entities, including Chief's of Police, Police Officers, and Sheriffs, you would find it to be negligible to say the very least.

We know that many municipalities use their constables for purposes other than just serving civil process, such as security at polling places during elections, appointment of Housing and Health Inspectors as constables so that they will have a lawful power of entry, etc. We feel that instead of virtually eliminating constables the correct approach would be to provide mandatory state funded training and education for all municipal constables in Massachusetts to help make them an even more valuable asset to the municipalities they now serve. We hope we can count on your opposition to H.2252.

If you have any questions at all relative to our position on H. 2252 you can write to us at the above address, or contact our Secretary, Sally M. Hoyt at Tel. 781-944-1191 or email us at info@constables-mbca.org. We would be most pleased to hear from you.

Respectfully yours,

Richard E. Ramponi,
President, MBCA

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