

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2000**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

**John A. Hart, Jr.**

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*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 passage of the accompanying bill:

**An Act RELATIVE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS AND AGENTS.**

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
John A. Hart, Jr.	First Suffolk
Harold P. Naughton, Jr.	12th Worcester
Susan Williams Gifford	2nd Plymouth
Rosemary Sandlin	3rd Hampden
William G. Greene, Jr.	22nd Middlesex
Matthew C. Patrick	3rd Barnstable
James T. Welch	6th Hampden
Sean Garballey	23rd Middlesex
Stephen M. Brewer	Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

## AN ACT RELATIVE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS AND AGENTS.

*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. Section 2 of Chapter 115 of the General Laws, is hereby amended by  
2 inserting the following after paragraph 2: —

3           The secretary shall promulgate regulations to ensure local veteran service officers and agents,  
4 appointed under section 3 of this chapter, are trained and certified, including but not limited to  
5 assessing penalties against any municipality, district or veterans service officer or agent not in  
6 compliance with this statute or regulations promulgated hereto. Veteran service officers and  
7 agents shall be trained and certified within twelve (12) months of appointment pursuant to  
8 Section 3 of this Chapter. Veterans service officers and agents currently appointed pursuant to  
9 section 3 of this chapter shall be shall be certified within (12) months of the date said regulations  
10 are promulgated. Certification must be renewed every five (5) years. To be eligible for  
11 certification as a veterans service officer or agent, the candidate shall (1) be appointed locally  
12 pursuant to MGL chapter 115, section 3; (2) pass a test established by the secretary which shall  
13 demonstrate the skills necessary to effectively represent veterans which shall include, but not be

14 limited to the following areas of knowledge: the chapter 115 program, federal and local benefits,  
15 including employment, education, health care, retirement and other veterans' benefits; and  
16 alternative resources, including those which are partially or wholly subsidized by the federal  
17 government, such as Medicaid, supplemental security income and social security disability  
18 benefits, as well as federal pension and compensation entitlements. The secretary shall  
19 collaborate with the Massachusetts veterans service officers association in formulating said  
20 training and certification. The secretary shall make this testing available no less than two times  
21 per calendar year. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall consider those who complete the  
22 requirements in this paragraph a certified veteran service officer or agent.

23 The secretary shall establish standards for the training and support of veteran service officers and  
24 agents consistent with the requirements of this paragraph. During the period of employment, a  
25 person holding a veterans service officer or agent certificate pursuant to this section shall be  
26 under the direct supervision of the mayor, town manager, board of selectmen, or regional district  
27 board or others who shall regularly observe and evaluate the performance of assigned duties by  
28 veterans service officer or agent.

29 At the request of any municipality or district, the secretary shall offer such training and testing to  
30 any person who works directly for a certified veterans service officer or agent.