

Offered by Councilor Michael P. Ross, Ayanna Pressley, and Felix Arroyo*



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL
HOME RULE PETITION**

- WHEREAS,* The Boston City Council is deeply concerned by the potential layoffs and closure of several neighborhood branches across the Boston Public Library system; and
- WHEREAS,* The Central Library, located in Copley Square, may see massive staff reductions, making it difficult for America's oldest public library system to fulfill its mission; and
- WHEREAS,* During these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever that supporters of the Boston Public Library join together to collectively support and ensure that these facilities can remain open and accessible to the community; and
- WHEREAS,* The Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library were incorporated in 1878 for the purpose of the general administration of the Library and representing its interests and needs; and
- WHEREAS,* The current board is composed of nine members, and four additional members will increase the capacity of the Board of Trustees; and
- WHEREAS,* The appointed Board of Trustees have a duty to preserve the mission of the Boston Public Library and advocate on its behalf, but do not have explicit authority to raise funds for the Library; and
- WHEREAS,* Enabling the Boston Public Library's Board of Trustees with the ability to solicit and raise funds will allow the Library to leverage additional resources to preserve the Library system. THEREFORE BE IT
- ORDERED,* That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston, to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

*The inclusion of a third name requires suspension of the rules.

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:

ENABLING THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 114 of the acts of 1878, as most recently amended by chapter 340 of the acts of 2006, is hereby further amended by inserting after the words “accepted by the Trustees” the following:-

“, who are hereby also authorized to solicit and accept private funds and engage in fundraising activities in accordance and consistent with chapter 268A of the General Laws,”

SECTION 2. Section 3 of said chapter is hereby amended by striking the first two sentences and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:-

“The Trustees of the Public Library shall be thirteen in number, appointed by the Mayor for a term of five years. Three members shall be appointed for an initial term of one year; three members shall be appointed for an initial term of two years; three members shall be appointed for an initial term of three years; three members shall be appointed for an initial term of four years; and one member shall be appointed for an initial term of five years.”

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall take effect upon its passage.