September 18, 2023

The Honorable Paul W. Mark, Senate Chair

The Honorable Mindy Domb, House Chair

Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts & Cultural Development

Submitted via email:

Derek.Dunlea@mahouse.gov

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***Re: H. 3250 An Act related to local and regional cultural council membership***

Dear Chair Mark and Chair Domb:

On behalf of the Mass Cultural Council, I am pleased to submit testimony on a pending matter before your Committee, H. 3250, *An Act related to local and regional cultural council membership.*

In the 2021-2022 legislative session Mass Cultural Council worked with the Legislature to [enact legislation, now law](https://massculturalcouncil.org/blog/victory-h-3378-our-lcc-membership-opportunity-legislation-is-now-law/), clarifying who is eligible to serve on a local or regional cultural council. Today, H. 3250 seeks to further amend the statute by extending the ability of members of local and regional cultural councils representing a population of 15,000 or less to serve three consecutive terms; currently the law provides for two consecutive three-year terms.

Our Communities Initiative program officers, who work daily with the more than 2,500 volunteers staffing the Commonwealth’s local and regional cultural council network, advise that many smaller and rural communities consistently report difficulties identifying eligible residents to serve on these boards. While nine consecutive years may seem like a long period for one to voluntarily serve their community, Mass Cultural Council would tend to support any step taken by the Legislature to help ensure these boards are able to reach quorum to conduce their business appropriately.

Thank you for your time and consideration, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

Bethann Steiner

Senior Director of Public Affairs