



Power of culture

PLEASE CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT H. 3378/S. 2243

An Act to expand membership opportunities in Local Cultural Councils

**Lead Sponsors: Rep. Ken Gordon and Sen. Adam Hinds
2021-2022 Legislative Session**

Background:

The Mass Cultural Council [Communities Initiative](#) proudly manages the Commonwealth's [Local Cultural Council \(LCC\) Program](#), the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation.

Led by municipally appointed volunteers, each year the Commonwealth's LCCs award more than \$4 million in grants to promote and enrich cultural life in all 351 Massachusetts communities. LCC grants support more than 6,000 cultural programs statewide, providing residents in every city and town access to arts and culture.

The Problem:

State law ([MGL Ch. 10, Sec. 58](#)) prohibits "elected public officials" from serving on their LCC.

Mass Cultural Council believes this restriction is appropriate for chief municipal decisionmakers, like mayors, city councilors and select board members. However, this law also prevents those who are elected to serve in other local and regional capacities, like town meeting members, school committee members, local assessors, and library trustees from serving on their LCC. In smaller, rural communities this severely limits the number of residents willing and able to serve as an appointed LCC member. LCCs cannot convene to conduct their important business if they cannot achieve quorum.

The Fix:

H. 3378 and S. 2243 amend the statute and authorize local and regional elected officials to also serve on LCCs, excluding the community's chief appointing authority and members of the local appropriating authority, as defined in [MGL Ch. 59, Sec. 21C](#). HD655 and SD1204 offer a technical correction that is good for rural communities, promotes good governance, civic engagement, and strengthens participation in our cultural sector!

The Ask:

Please contact [Cody Case](#) in the House or [Christian Kelly](#) in the Senate to co-sponsor this legislation. For more information from [Mass Cultural Council](#), contact [Bethann Steiner](#).