ML STRATEGIES

Proposed Laws Are One Step Closer to the November 2022 Ballot

September 03, 2021 | Blog | By **Steven A. Baddour**, **Daniel J. Connelly**, **Caitlin R. Beresin**, **Kaitlyn C. Sprague**, **Taylor C. Shepherd**

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On Wednesday, September 1st, Attorney General Maura Healey certified 17 out of 30 ballot proposals filed in August to continue on the path to securing a spot on the 2022 ballot. Of the 17 proposals certified, 16 were initiative petitions including, but not limited to, proposals relative to alcohol reforms, requirements for presentation of identification to vote, and the employment of app-based drivers. The seventeenth proposal is a constitutional amendment providing for no-excuse absentee voting. The 17 certified proposals are outlined below:

Initiative Petition 21-03 – 21st Century Alcohol Retail Reform

Initiative Petition 21-04 – Law to Require Voter Identification in Massachusetts

Initiative Petition 21-06 – Hospital CEO Financial Transparency

Initiative Petition 21-08 – Limit Excessive Hospital Operative Margins and Maintain Essential Health

Initiative Petition 21-11- Defining and Regulating the Relationship Between TNCs and App-Based Drivers (Version A)

Initiative Petition 21-12 – Defining and Regulating the Relationship Between TNCs and App-Based Drivers (Version B)

Initiative Petition 21-13 – Medical Loss Ratios for Dental Benefit Plans

Initiative Petition 21-14 – Regulation and Sale of Consumer Fireworks

Initiative Petition 21-15 – Hate Crimes

Initiative Petition 21-17 – Whale Safe Fishing Act

Initiative Petition 21-18 – Preserving Consumer Access to Gasoline and Other Motor Fuels

Initiative Petition 21-20 – “Happy Hour” Practices Permitted by Licensees

Initiative Petition 21-23 – Public Disclosures by Certain Corporate Taxpayers

Initiative Petition 21-24 – Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings

Initiative Petition 21-25 – Zero Emission Vehicles, Zero Emission Home Heating Systems, and Home Solar Powered Electricity (Version A)

Initiative Petition 21-28 - Zero Emission Vehicles, Zero Emission Home Heating Systems, and Home Solar Powered Electricity (Version C)

Initiative Petition 21-29 – Constitutional Amendment for No-Excuse Absentee Voting

Certification is a large step toward securing a position on the 2022 ballot, however, proponents of the above 17 proposals still have some work to do. The following outlines a summary of the steps that now must be taken in order for the proposals to make it on the 2022 ballot:

- Proposals certified by the Attorney General must collect 80,239 signatures from Massachusetts registered voters by November 17, 2021;
- If enough signatures are collected, in January 2022, the petition is filed with the Massachusetts Legislature. At this point, the Legislature can debate the merits of the proposal and pass it, it can substitute its own proposal for the petition, or it can take no action. In the event that the Legislature fails to take action on a particular petition, then the proponents of the petition can advance the petition by collecting an additional 13,374 signatures by July 6, 2022 to force the matter on to the state’s 2022 ballot.

Don’t hesitate to reach out to the team at ML Strategies if you have any questions or concerns about the 17 proposals continuing on their respective paths toward locking in their position on the November 8, 2022 ballot.

Authors



Steven A. Baddour, Executive Vice President & Director of Operations

Steve Baddour is a seasoned strategist and former Massachusetts State Senator and Assistant Attorney General with over three decades of experience in law, government, and public policy. His innovative approach to lobbying helps clients turn obstacles into opportunities by crafting tailored solutions that get results where others stall.



Daniel J. Connelly, Senior Vice President and Compliance Officer

Dan Connelly is a lawyer and lobbyist with over two decades of experience guiding clients through the legislative, regulatory, and political landscape. In addition, he counsels clients on lobbying registration and disclosure requirements, offering tailored guidance in complex compliance environments.

Caitlin Beresin

Kaitlyn Sprague



Taylor C. Shepherd, Vice President of Government Relations

Taylor Shepherd is a seasoned public policy professional with a proven track record of success in legislative and regulatory lobbying, strategy, and relationship building. With roots in the Massachusetts State House, she has developed a meticulous and strategic approach to navigating the complexities of the policymaking process.