HOUSE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/12/2009

**HOUSE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (BY REQUEST)**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 to Open Meetings of Governmental Bodies Without the Presence of a Quorum.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| William C. Brown | 28 Martin Rd.Reading, MA 01867 |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3205 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act Relative to Open Meetings of Governmental Bodies Without the Presence of a Quorum.

 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 23B of chapter 39 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding after the sixth paragraph the following new paragraph:—

                A meeting for which notice is filed and posted under the preceding paragraph shall not be convened in open or executive session unless and until a quorum of the governmental body is present.  If such a quorum is not present within twenty minutes after the time stated in the notice, the members then present may convene in open session for the sole purpose of scheduling a subsequent meeting of the governmental body, and shall not deliberate any other matter.  A meeting scheduled under this paragraph shall otherwise conform to the requirements of this section.