



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ONE ASHBURTON PLACE  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

MARTHA COAKLEY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

(617) 727-2200  
[www.ago.state.ma.us](http://www.ago.state.ma.us)

August 25, 2008

The Honorable William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
One Ashburton Place, 17th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Secretary Galvin:

You have asked for my opinion whether chapter 216 of the acts of 2008, "An Act Relative to Certain Marriage laws," may be the subject of a referendum petition under Amendment Article 48 of the Massachusetts Constitution ("art. 48"). Your request arises because a referendum petition signed by ten qualified voters, calling for the repeal of chapter 216, was filed with your office in timely fashion.

I have reviewed the petition and have concluded that chapter 216 is not excluded from the referendum by any provision of art. 48. I therefore enclose the "fair, concise summary" required by art. 48.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Coakley".

Martha Coakley

Enc.



