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By Mr. Waterous of Pepperell, petition of Paul R. Taylor, Chester H. Waterous and others for legislation relative to absent voting. Election Laws.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

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### AN ACT RELATIVE TO ABSENT VOTING.

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

1 Section 86 of Chapter 54 of the General Laws as  
2 most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 153,  
3 acts of 1951, is hereby further amended by striking  
4 out said section and inserting in place thereof the  
5 following:—

6 *Section 86.* Any voter who during the hours that  
7 the polling places are open on the day of the biennial  
8 state election is absent from the city or town where  
9 he is a voter by reason of his employment in another  
10 community or for any other reason or who will be  
11 unable by reason of physical disability to cast his vote  
12 in person at the polling place, and whose application  
13 for an official absent voting ballot has been filed with  
14 the city or town clerk as provided in section eighty-  
15 nine, or with the state secretary and certified under  
16 section ninety-one, may vote in accordance with sec-  
17 tions eighty-seven to one hundred and three, inclusive;  
18 provided, that a voter who is in a penal institution  
19 under sentence shall not be entitled or permitted to  
20 avail himself of the provisions of this and the seven-  
21 teen following sections; and provided, further, that a  
22 voter who will be unable by reason of physical dis-  
23 ability to cast his vote in person at the polling place

24 shall file with the city or town clerk with his applica-  
25 tion for an official absent voting ballot a certificate  
26 executed by a registered physician, attending regis-  
27 tered nurse, superintendent of a hospital or like insti-  
28 tution or a practitioner of the Christian Science  
29 Church, stating that the voter will be unable by reason  
30 of physical disability to cast his vote in person at the  
31 polling place on the day of election.