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By Mr. Moore of Hopedale, petition of Susan A. Mellor for legislation to further regulate the conduct of elections. Election Laws.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Eight.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.

*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 65 of Chapter 54 is hereby amended by striking out the  
2 first two paragraphs, and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following:— At an election of state or city officers, and of town  
4 officers in towns where official ballots are used, the presiding  
5 election officer at each polling place shall, before the opening of  
6 the polls, post at least three cards of instruction, three cards  
7 containing abstracts of the laws imposing penalties upon voters,  
8 three copies of measures to be submitted to the people, if any, and  
9 at least five specimen ballots within the polling place outside the  
10 guard rail, and a copy of each measure to be submitted to the  
11 people in each marking compartment; and no other poster, card,  
12 handbill, placard, picture, or circular intended to influence the  
13 action of the voter shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or  
14 distributed in the polling place, in the building where the polling  
15 place is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises on which  
16 the building stands, or within fifty feet of the entrance to such  
17 polling place. In polling places in which voting machines or  
18 approved electronic voting systems are used, the samples of the  
19 ballot posted shall be, substantially replicas of the ballot labels,  
20 cards or ballots upon which the voters must vote in using the  
21 particular machine or system. Pastors, commonly called stickers,  
22 shall not be posted, circulated or distributed in the polling place,  
23 in the building where the polling place is located, on the walls  
24 thereof, on the premises on which the building stands, or within

25 fifty feet of the entrance to such polling place. Such pasters shall  
26 be subject to all the restrictions imposed by sections forty-one and  
27 forty-four as to names and residences of candidates and the size  
28 of the type in which the names shall be printed; but no political or  
29 other designation shall appear on such pasters, and no vote by  
30 paster shall be counted if such designation appears. The presiding  
31 election officer shall, at the opening of the polls, publicly open the  
32 packages containing the ballots and deliver them to the ballot  
33 clerks. All specimen ballots not posted shall be kept in the  
34 custody of the presiding officer until after the closing of the polls.

35 No rule, regulation or provision of law shall prohibit a person  
36 who is a member of a police or fire department of the  
37 commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, who is not on  
38 active duty, from distributing such material fifty feet distant from  
39 a polling place in an election where there appears on the ballot a  
40 referendum pertaining to, or affecting, the conditions of  
41 employment, including hours of labor and compensation, in the  
42 department of which said person is a member subject to the  
43 provisions of this section.