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By Mr. Farrell of Worcester, petition of Charles H. McGlue and Thomas F. Farrell relative to the redividing of cities into wards of equal voting strength. Election Laws.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO REDIVIDING OF CITIES INTO WARDS OF EQUAL VOTING STRENGTH.

*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 1. Section 1 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the word "twenty-four" in  
3 line 2 and substituting therefor the word:—sixty-six,—and is  
4 further amended by striking out the word "may" in the third  
5 line and substituting the word:—shall,—and by adding at the  
6 end thereof the following sentences:—Upon the failure of  
7 any city council to carry out the provisions of this act, the  
8 county commissioners of the county in which the said city is  
9 located, shall, within thirty days, assemble at a shire town of  
10 their respective county, and proceed as soon as may be, to  
11 divide the city into wards of equal voting strength, not later  
12 than March first of the year nineteen hundred and sixty-eight  
13 and if it would be helpful to the ensuing reapportionment of  
14 the house districts, the county commissions shall have the  
15 power to change the number of wards in the city. For the  
16 purposes of this act, the cities of Chelsea and Revere, and the  
17 town of Winthrop shall be considered as a part of Middlesex  
18 county. Said new division of the territory would be the basis  
19 of reapportionment of the house districts based on the census  
20 of voters in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-five, and  
21 said redivision of the city into wards and the reapportion-

22 ment of the house districts based on the new division of the  
23 city into wards, would take effect in nineteen hundred and  
24 sixty-nine.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall apply to all cities of the  
2 commonwealth except Boston, Cambridge, Worcester, Spring-  
3 field, Medford, Lowell, Haverhill, Lawrence, Gloucester and  
4 Fall River.