

HOUSE No. 1308

By Mr. Connolly of Boston, petition of Charles H. McGlue for legislation to provide for a complete count of all ballots used or unused in elections and recounts. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPLETE COUNT OF ALL
BALLOTS USED OR UNUSED IN ELECTIONS AND RE-
COUNTS.

*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 105 of chapter 54 of the
2 General Laws (Tercentenary Edition) is hereby
3 amended by striking out the said section and sub-
4 stituting therefor the following:—

5 *Section 105.* If the state ballot box is used, the
6 clerk shall, as soon as the polls are closed, record the
7 total number of ballots received at the polling place
8 from the public officials, the ballot box register, and
9 the total number of “spoiled” ballots. The election
10 officer shall then publicly and in the presence of the
11 other election officers, count audibly and distinctly
12 the number of names checked on each list, shall an-
13 nounce the same, and the clerk shall record the same.
14 The ballot box shall then be opened by the presid-

15 ing officer and the ballots taken therefrom and audi-
16 bly counted in public view, one by one, and the whole
17 number of the ballots cast shall be publicly announced
18 by him. The ballots may be divided into convenient
19 packages, each block or package shall be canvassed
20 and counted by two election officers representing
21 the two leading political parties detailed by the pre-
22 siding officer. Each election officer in so canvassing
23 and counting votes, shall be under the inspection
24 of an election officer of a different political party.
25 The result of the canvass and count shall be reported
26 to the presiding officer, who shall cause it to be cor-
27 rectly recorded on the blank forms provided therefor.
28 Immediately thereafter, the election officers shall
29 proceed to audibly count all unused ballots and the
30 total number of unused ballots shall be publicly an-
31 nounced by the presiding officer who shall also cor-
32 rectly record this information on blank forms provided
33 therefor and shall cause the clerk to record same.

1 SECTION 2. Section 135 of chapter 54 of the
2 General Laws (Tercentenary Edition) is hereby
3 amended by adding at the end of the fourth para-
4 graph of said section the following words:— In all
5 recounts, all spoiled and unused ballots shall also
6 be counted and the result recorded in the blank form
7 provided therefor.