

HOUSE No. 1301

By Mr. Murphy of Malden, petition of Robert F. Murphy for legislation relative to the registration of voters prior to state primaries, presidential primaries and state elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS PRIOR TO STATE PRIMARIES, PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES AND STATE 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 1. Section 26 of chapter 51 of the Gen-
2 eral Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 42 of
3 the acts of 1948, is hereby further amended by strik-
4 ing out, in line 8, the word "thirty-second", as ap-
5 pearing in section 1 of chapter 34 of the acts of 1947,
6 and inserting in place thereof the word: — twentieth,
7 — so that the first sentence will read as follows: —
8 The registrars, for the purpose of registering voters
9 in the manner hereinafter provided, shall hold such
10 day and such evening sessions as the town by by-law
11 or the city by ordinance shall prescribe, and such
12 other sessions as they deem necessary; but, except as
13 provided in sections thirty-four and fifty, there shall
14 be no registration of voters between ten o'clock in the

15 evening on the twentieth day preceding, and the day
16 following, the biennial state primary, the presidential
17 primary and the biennial state election, nor in any
18 city between ten o'clock in the evening on the twen-
19 tieth day preceding and the day following a city
20 election, or a city primary or preliminary election, nor
21 in any town between ten o'clock in the evening on the
22 twentieth day preceding and the day following the
23 annual town meeting notwithstanding any contrary
24 provision in any special law.

1 SECTION 2. Section 29B of said chapter 51, as
2 amended by section 6 of said chapter 34, is hereby
3 further amended by striking out, in line 1, the word
4 "sixty" and inserting in place thereof the word: —
5 forty, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 29B.* In
6 cities the registrars shall, within forty days before the
7 biennial state election, but on or before the last day
8 fixed for registration, hold one or more sessions in one
9 or more suitable places in each ward of the city, unless
10 the city council votes otherwise.