

HOUSE No. 2337

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 11, 1949.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 447) of Charles W. Hedges for legislation relative to election of state committees of political parties, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2337).

For the committee,

GEORGE E. RAWSON.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ELECTION OF STATE COMMITTEES OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

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. Chapter 52 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out section 1, as most
3 recently amended, and inserting in place thereof the
4 following:—

5 *Section 1.* Each political party shall, in the man-
6 ner herein provided, elect from among its enrolled
7 members a state committee, which shall consist of
8 one man and one woman from each senatorial district
9 to be elected at the presidential primaries by plurality
10 vote of the members of the party in the district, such
11 number of members at large as may be fixed by said
12 committee, to be elected at the state convention, and
13 such number of members as may be elected by the
14 state committee as hereinafter provided. Members
15 of said committee elected at the presidential primaries
16 from senatorial districts shall hold office for a period of
17 four years from June first next following their election.
18 Members elected at a state convention shall hold office
19 until the next following state convention and members
20 elected by the state committee shall hold office for
21 two years from the date of their election; provided,

22 however, that in no event shall the terms of office of
23 such members extend beyond the term of office of
24 members who were elected at the presidential pri-
25 maries.

26 The members of the state committee elected at the
27 presidential primaries shall within ten days after
28 June first next following their election, meet and
29 organize by the choice of a chairman, a secretary, a
30 treasurer and such other officers as they may decide
31 to elect; provided, that the members of the committee
32 shall first meet and organize temporarily by the choice
33 of a temporary chairman and a temporary secretary
34 who shall serve until a permanent chairman and a
35 permanent secretary are chosen, and such committee,
36 while temporarily organized or at any time after its
37 permanent organization, may add to its membership.

38 The secretary of the state committee shall file with
39 the state secretary, and send to each city and town
40 committee, within ten days after such permanent
41 organization, a list of the members of the state com-
42 mittee and of its officers, and, within ten days after
43 each addition to its membership made subsequently
44 to its permanent organization, a list of the members
45 so added.

46 A vacancy in the office of chairman, secretary or
47 treasurer of the state committee or in the member-
48 ship thereof shall be filled by said committee, and a
49 statement of any such change shall be filed as in the
50 case of the officers first chosen.

1 SECTION 2. Section one A of chapter fifty-two of
2 the General Laws, inserted by section two of chapter
3 six hundred and fourteen of the acts of nineteen hun-
4 dred and forty-eight, is hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter 53 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out section 52, as most
3 recently amended by section 3, chapter 614 of the
4 acts of 1948, and inserting in place thereof the follow-
5 ing: —

6 *Section 52.* Upon receipt of the records of votes
7 cast at state primaries the city or town clerk shall
8 forthwith canvass the same and within four days after
9 said primary make return of the votes for candidates
10 for nomination for state offices, to the state secretary,
11 who shall forthwith canvass such returns, determine
12 the results thereof, notify the successful candidates,
13 and certify to the state committees the names of the
14 persons nominated for state offices.

1 SECTION 4. Section 53 of chapter 53 of the General
2 Laws, as most recently amended by section 4 of chap-
3 ter 614 of the acts of 1948, is hereby further amended
4 by striking out the third sentence in the first paragraph
5 and inserting in place thereof the following: — If the
6 tie is between candidates for nomination for any other
7 office, the vacancy shall be filled by the members of
8 the ward and town committees in the district for which
9 the nomination is to be made.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 53 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out section 70D, as most
3 recently amended by section 5 of chapter 614 of the
4 acts of 1948, and inserting in place thereof the follow-
5 ing: —

6 *Section 70D.* Nomination of candidates for dele-
7 gates and alternate delegates to national conventions
8 and members of political committees shall be by
9 nomination papers which shall be prepared and, on

10 request, furnished by the state secretary. In the case
11 of candidates for delegates at large or alternate dele-
12 gates at large such papers shall be signed in the aggre-
13 gate by at least one thousand voters, not more than
14 two hundred and fifty to be from any one county. Such
15 papers for members of committees and for district
16 delegates and alternate district delegates shall be
17 signed by a number of voters equal in the aggregate
18 to five voters from each ward and each town in the
19 district. Section forty-five shall apply to such papers
20 for candidates to be voted for at presidential primaries
21 except that they shall not contain the eight word
22 statement referred to in said section; provided, that a
23 candidate for delegate or alternate delegate to a na-
24 tional convention may state in not more than eight
25 words, including the statement of preference for presi-
26 dent referred to in section seventy E, the public offices
27 which he holds or has held, showing clearly that he is
28 a former incumbent thereof, if such is the case. Nom-
29 ination papers may contain the name of more than one
30 candidate for delegate or alternate delegate or for
31 members of ward and town committees.

1 SECTION 6. Said chapter 53 is hereby further
2 amended by striking out section 70F, as most recently
3 amended by section 6 of chapter 614 of the acts of
4 1948, and inserting in place thereof the following: —

5 *Section 70F.* Upon the receipt of the records of the
6 votes cast at presidential primaries and within four
7 days after said primary the city or town clerk shall
8 forthwith canvass the same and make return of the
9 votes for delegates at large, alternate delegates at
10 large, district delegates and alternate district delegates
11 and for election as members of the state committee

12 to the state secretary, who shall forthwith canvass
13 such returns, determine the results thereof, notify
14 the successful candidates, and certify to the state
15 committees the names of the persons elected as mem-
16 bers of state committees. Said clerks shall determine
17 the results of the vote for members of ward and town
18 committees, issue proper certificates thereof to the
19 successful candidates and notify the chairmen of the
20 city and town committees of the respective parties.

1 SECTION 7. Section 70G of said chapter 53, as
2 most recently amended by section 7 of chapter 614 of
3 the acts of 1948, is hereby further amended by adding
4 at the end of the second paragraph the following:—
5 If there is such a tie for members of the state com-
6 mittee it shall be filled by the ward and town com-
7 mittees of the district in which it exists.

1 SECTION 8. Sections seven and eight of chapter
2 six hundred and fourteen of the acts of nineteen hun-
3 dred and forty-eight are hereby repealed.

ROUSE

No. 2343

THE CONSTITUTION OF MASSACHUSETTS

1780

The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as amended, is hereby published in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 151B, Section 1, of the Acts and Resolves of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, passed at the Session of the Legislature at Westborough, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-two, and of our Independence the hundred and forty-sixth.

W. H. B. B. B.

