

HOUSE No. 2533

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 11, 1954.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 512) of Robert F. Murphy for legislation to prohibit the opening of ballot boxes and counting of votes in towns during elections, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1860) of Charles H. McGlue and James A. Burke for legislation to prohibit the opening of ballot boxes in towns during voting hours, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2533).

For the committee,

MARY B. NEWMAN.

Representatives RAWSON of Newton, BAYLEY of Boston and WHITMORE of Sunderland dissenting.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

AN ACT RESTRICTING THE OPENING OF THE BALLOT BOXES
AND THE COUNTING OF VOTES IN TOWNS DURING THE
PROGRESS OF AN ELECTION.

*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 105 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by section 3 of chapter 39 of
3 the acts of 1952, is hereby further amended by strik-
4 ing out the fourth paragraph and inserting in place
5 thereof the following:—

6 In towns, except at town elections where members
7 of boards or officers are to be elected under the pro-
8 visions of chapter fifty-four A, the ballot box at any
9 polling place may be opened when the ballot box regis-
10 ters one hundred, and reopened for each additional
11 one hundred registered, and ballots taken therefrom
12 for counting when all the selectmen and the town
13 clerk, or, where the moderator is in charge of the
14 election, the moderator and the town clerk, or all the
15 election officers at the voting precinct shall so order.
16 When the ballots have been thus removed the pre-
17 siding officer shall select from the election officers an
18 equal number from each of the two leading political
19 parties, who shall canvass such ballots, in accordance
20 with this section; but no announcement of the result
21 of such canvass shall be made by any election officer
22 until the total result of the canvass of ballots has
23 been ascertained.