
By Mr. Keenan of Boston (by request), petition of Charles H. McGlue for legislation to provide for party voting at state elections for the purpose of preventing the casting of blank ballots. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PARTY VOTING AT 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 77 of chapter 54 of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out said section and
3 inserting in place thereof the following new section: —
4 *Section 77.* The voter on receiving his ballot shall,
5 without leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to one
6 of the marking compartments, and shall, except in the
7 case of voting for presidential electors, prepare his ballot
8 by marking a cross (X) in the square at the right of the
9 name of each candidate for whom he intends to vote, or
10 by inserting the name and residence of such candidate
11 in the space provided therefor and marking a cross (X)
12 in the square at the right, or if he so selects, the voter
13 may place a cross (X) in one of the circles at the top of
14 the first column of the ballot, which circles are to be
15 politically designated by the name and insignia of the
16 legally established political parties in our commonwealth.
17 A cross (X) in such a circle shall count as a vote for each
18 candidate of that particular party that appears upon
19 said ballot. These circles shall appear upon the ballot
20 in the same order as that in which the gubernatorial
21 candidates finished in the preceding state election, the
22 party receiving the highest vote being in the first place,
23 the party receiving the second largest vote being in sec-

24 ond place, et cetera. Upon a question submitted by the
25 vote of the people, the voter shall prepare his ballot by
26 marking a cross (X) in the square at the right of the
27 answer which he intends to give.

1 SECTION 2. The same right to vote a straight party
2 ticket, shall be given a voter who is using a voting ma-
3 chine, by providing for the use of a party-designated
4 lever which when pulled down, will automatically cast
5 a vote for each candidate on the ballot of the party that
6 the voter desires to support.