

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1571

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By Mr. Coady of Cambridge, petition of Michael A. O'Leary and Thomas F. Coady, Jr., relative to registration of voters in cities and towns. Election Laws.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN CITIES AND TOWNS.

*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 4 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as most  
2 recently amended by chapter 26 of the acts of 1947, is  
3 hereby further amended by inserting after the word  
4 "age" in line 6, as appearing in section 13 of chapter 453  
5 of the acts of 1943, the words:— date and place of birth,  
6 whether single, married or divorced, — and inserting  
7 after the word "towns", in line 9, the words:— and  
8 shall, when registering a voter, require under oath if the  
9 applicant believes in, is or ever was a member of any  
10 organization advocating the forceful overthrow of the  
11 United States government, and if he or she will fight to  
12 support the Constitution and government of the United  
13 States", — and inserting after the word "veteran",  
14 in line 1, as appearing in chapter 26 of the acts of 1947,  
15 the words:— or person employed and residing in, —  
16 and inserting after the word "Chelsea", in line 1, the  
17 words:— or home, hospital or institution not criminal,  
18 maintained wholly or in part by the government of the  
19 United States or the commonwealth of Massachusetts, —  
20 so as to read as follows:— *Section 4.* Except as other-  
21 wise provided by law, the registrars, assistant registrars,

22 or one or more of them, shall annually in January or Feb-  
23 ruary visit every building in their respective cities and  
24 towns, and, after diligent inquiry, shall make true lists  
25 containing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name,  
26 date and place of birth, whether single, married or di-  
27 vorced, occupation, nationality if not a citizen of the  
28 United States, and residence on January first of the pre-  
29 ceding year and in the current year, and of every person  
30 twenty or more years of age, residing in their respective  
31 cities and towns, and shall, when registering a voter,  
32 require under oath, if the applicant believes in, is or ever  
33 was a member of any organization advocating the force-  
25 ful overthrow of the United States government, and if he  
35 or she will fight to support the constitution and govern-  
36 ment of the United States. Any veteran or person em-  
37 ployed and residing in the Soldier's Home in Chelsea, or  
38 any home, hospital or institution not criminal, main-  
39 tained wholly or in part by the government of the United  
40 States or by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall  
41 have the same right as any other residence of the city or  
42 town wherein any such home, hospital or institution  
42 may be located, to be assessed and to vote therein.