

# HOUSE . . . . No. 2819

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By Mr. Zollo of Danvers, petition of Paul G. Zollo for legislation relative to the hours for opening and closing of polls at elections in the town of Danvers. Election Laws.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE HOURS FOR OPENING AND CLOSING OF POLLS AT ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF DANVERS.

*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 294 of the acts of 1930 is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 8, as most recently  
3 amended by section 1 of chapter 20 of the acts of 1951,  
4 and inserting in place thereof the following section:—

5 *Section 8.* No vote, except a vote to adjourn or au-  
6 thorizing the borrowing of money in anticipation of the  
7 receipt of taxes for the current year, passed at any repre-  
8 sentative town meeting shall be operative until after  
9 the expiration of five days, exclusive of Sundays and  
10 holidays, from the dissolution of the meeting. If, within  
11 said five days, a petition, signed by not less than two  
12 hundred registered voters of the town, containing their  
13 names and addresses as they appear on the list of regis-  
14 tered voters, is filed with the selectmen asking that the  
15 question or questions involved in such vote be sub-  
16 mitted to the registered voters of the town at large, then  
17 the selectmen, after the expiration of five days, shall  
18 forthwith call a special meeting for the sole purpose of  
19 presenting to the registered voters at large the question

20 or questions so involved. The polls shall be opened not  
21 later than ten o'clock in the forenoon and shall be closed  
22 at eight o'clock in the evening and all votes upon any  
23 questions so submitted shall be taken by ballot, and the  
24 check list shall be used in the several precinct meetings  
25 in the same manner as in the election of town officers.  
26 The questions so submitted shall be determined by vote  
27 of the same proportion of voters at large voting thereon  
28 as would have been required by law of the town meeting  
29 members had the question been finally determined at a  
30 representative town meeting. The questions so sub-  
31 mitted shall be stated upon the ballot in substantially  
32 the same language and form in which they were stated  
33 when presented to said representative town meeting by  
34 the moderator, and as appears from the records of said  
35 meeting. If such petition is not filed within the said  
36 period of five days, the vote of the representative town  
37 meeting shall become operative and effective upon the  
38 expiration of said period.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 294 is hereby further  
2 amended by striking out section 12, as most recently  
3 amended by section 2 of said chapter 20, and inserting  
4 in place thereof the following section:—

5 *Section 12.* The town of Danvers, after the accept-  
6 ance of this act, shall hold its annual town meeting for  
7 the purposes of election of officers only on the first Mon-  
8 day of March in each year. The polls for the election  
9 of officers shall open not later than ten o'clock in the  
10 forenoon and shall be closed at eight o'clock in the  
11 evening. The town of Danvers shall hold its annual  
12 meeting for the transaction of municipal business in  
13 pursuance of the warrant for the annual town meeting,  
14 except the election of officers, on the third Monday of  
15 March at thirty minutes past seven o'clock in the eve-  
16 ning. If the said business of the annual town meeting  
17 is not completed on the evening of the third Monday of  
18 March, the said meeting may be adjourned to thirty  
19 minutes past seven o'clock of any evening or to as many

20 evenings as the meeting votes, during the week of the  
21 third Monday of March, as are necessary to complete  
22 the said business.

1 SECTION 3. Chapter sixty-nine of the acts of the cur-  
2 rent year is hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its pas-  
2 sage.

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