

By Mr. Farrell of Worcester, petition of Charles H. McGlue and Thomas F. Farrell that provision be made for hearings by the State Ballot Law Commission on protests against petitions or referenda in Plan E cities. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT PROTESTS AGAINST PETITIONS OR REFERENDA IN PLAN E CITIES SHALL BE HEARD BY THE STATE BALLOT LAW COMMISSION.

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 2 of chapter 54A is hereby amended by adding at the
2 end of the third paragraph the following:— If any question
3 arises as to the validity or sufficiency of the petition or of the
4 signatures thereon, any registered voter of the city may appeal
5 to the state ballot law commission for a determination of said
6 question, by filing a notice of such appeal with the city council,
7 and with the clerk of the election commission or the board of
8 registrars of voters within sixty days after date petition was
9 filed with the city clerk by the petitioners.

10 The state ballot law commission shall give such petitioner a
11 hearing on said protest and shall within thirty days render a
12 decision thereon. The state ballot law commission shall submit
13 notice of its decision forthwith to the city council.

14 The state ballot law commission may summon witnesses,
15 administer oaths, and require the production of books and papers
16 at a hearing before it upon any matter within its jurisdiction.
17 Witnesses shall be summoned in the same manner, be paid the
18 same fees and be subject to the same penalties as witnesses in
19 civil cases before the courts. Any member may sign a summons
20 or administer an oath. The decision of the commission upon
21 any matter within its jurisdiction shall be final.

