

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2260

By Mr. Capraro of Boston, petition of Charles W. Capraro relative to the choice of delegates to state conventions of political parties. Election Laws.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CHOICE OF DELEGATES TO STATE CONVENTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

*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 52 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 9, as most recently amended by  
3 section 1 of chapter 406 of the acts of 1953, and inserting in  
4 place thereof the following section:—

5 *Section 9.* The state committee shall fix the number of dele-  
6 gates to the state convention, not less than one for each ward  
7 and town [to be chosen by the ward or town committee].  
8 City and town committees, respectively, shall fix the number of  
9 members of ward and town committees to be elected at the  
10 presidential primaries, not less than three nor more than thirty-  
11 five for each ward and each town. Notice of the number of com-  
12 mittee members to be elected shall be given by the city or  
13 town committee, as the case may be, to the state secretary  
14 on or before February first of the year in which such persons  
15 are to be elected. In case a city or town committee fails to  
16 fix the number of the members of a ward or town committee  
17 and to give such notice, the number of members of such ward  
18 or town committee to be elected shall not exceed ten. [Upon  
19 the choice of delegates to a state convention the chairman  
20 of the ward or town committee, as the case may be, shall notify  
21 in writing the chairman of the state committee of the respective  
22 party, who shall thereupon issue proper certificates to the  
23 persons so chosen.]

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 53 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 54 and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following section: —

4 *Section 54.* Beginning in the year nineteen hundred and  
5 fifty-four a political party shall, upon the call of its state com-  
6 mittee, but not later than June twentieth, and not earlier than  
7 June fifth, in a year in which a biennial state election is held,  
8 hold a state convention for the purpose of adopting a platform,  
9 electing such number of members at large of the state com-  
10 mittee as may be fixed by the convention, and enclosing for  
11 nomination candidates for offices to be filled by all of the voters  
12 of the commonwealth, to be voted for at the ensuing state pri-  
13 mary, and for such other purposes consistent with law as the  
14 convention may determine. Such convention shall consist of  
15 delegates [chosen by ward and town committees] **to be elected**  
16 **in party primaries on the third Tuesday of April of each**  
17 **state election year.** The number of delegates shall be one  
18 from each ward and town and one additional for every one  
19 thousand votes or major fraction thereof cast at the preceding  
20 biennial state election, in such ward or town, for the respective  
21 party's candidate for governor. [Each such ward or town  
22 committee desiring representation at such convention shall,  
23 within fourteen days after a meeting duly called for the purpose  
24 of selecting a delegate or delegates, in the case of a city, or the  
25 state committee, in the case of a town, but in no case shall such  
26 notice be given less than fourteen days prior to the date ap-  
27 pointed for the opening of such convention. No vacancy shall  
28 be filled for any reason.] Nothing herein contained shall affect  
29 or diminish the operation of the laws relating to state primaries  
30 contained in sections forty-one to fifty-three A, inclusive.