

HOUSE . . . No. 1062

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 28, 1927.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 449) of Lewis R. Sullivan for an amendment of the election laws relative to the distribution of stickers or pasters in the vicinity of polling places, report the accompanying bill, (House, No. 1062).

For the committee,

GEORGE A. DENNETT.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Seven.

An Act prohibiting the Distribution of Stickers or Pasters inside the Building where a Polling Place is Located.

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 sixty-five of chapter fifty-four
2 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
3 after the word "compartment" in the ninth line the
4 following:—and no paster to be placed upon the
5 official ballot shall be delivered inside the building where
6 the polling place is located, — and by striking out, in
7 the tenth and eleventh lines, the words "except a paster
8 to be placed upon the official ballot," — so as to read
9 as follows:— *Section 65.* At an election of state or city
10 officers, and of town officers in towns where official
11 ballots are used, the presiding election officer at each
12 polling place shall, before the opening of the polls, post
13 at least three cards of instruction, three cards containing
14 abstracts of the laws imposing penalties upon voters,
15 three copies of measures to be submitted to the people,
16 if any, and at least five specimen ballots within the
17 polling place outside the guard rail, and the cards of
18 instruction and a copy of each measure to be submitted
19 to the people in each marking compartment and no
20 paster to be placed upon the official ballot shall be de-

21 livered inside the building where the polling place is
22 located; and no other poster, card, handbill, placard,
23 picture or circular intended to influence the action of the
24 voter, shall be posted, exhibited, circulated or distributed
25 in the polling place, in the building where the polling
26 place is located, on the walls thereof, on the premises on
27 which the building stands, on the sidewalk adjoining the
28 premises where such election is being held, or within
29 one hundred and fifty feet of the entrance to such
30 polling place. Pastors to be placed on the official ballot
31 shall be subject to all the restrictions imposed by sections
32 forty-one and forty-four as to names and residences of
33 candidates and the size of the type in which the names
34 shall be printed; but no political or other designation
35 shall appear on such pasters, and no vote by paster shall
36 be counted if such designation appears. The presiding
37 election officer shall, at the opening of the polls, publicly
38 open the packages containing the ballots and deliver
39 them to the ballot clerks. All specimen ballots not
40 posted shall be kept in the custody of the presiding
41 officer until after the closing of the polls.

1 SECTION 2. Section thirty-nine of chapter fifty-six of
2 the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after
3 the word "Whoever" in the first line the following:—
4 distributes inside the building where a polling place is
5 located a paster to be placed upon the official ballot; or
6 whoever — and by striking out, in the second and third
7 lines, the words "except a paster to be placed upon the
8 official ballot," — so as to read as follows: — *Section 39.*
9 Whoever distributes inside the building where a polling
10 place is located a paster to be placed upon the official
11 ballot; or whoever posts, exhibits, circulates, or dis-
12 tributes any poster, card, handbill, placard, picture or

13 circular, intended to influence the action of a voter, in
14 the polling place, in the building where the polling place
15 is located or on the walls thereof, on the premises on
16 which the building stands, or on the sidewalk adjoining
17 said premises, or within one hundred and fifty feet of the
18 entrance to such polling place, shall be punished by a
19 fine of not more than twenty dollars.