

HOUSE No. 671

By Mr. Casson of Boston (by request), petition of James M. Curley, mayor of Boston, for an amendment of the law relative to the hours during which polls shall be open at elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act relative to the Time when the Polls shall be open
for Elections.

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-four of chapter fifty-
2 four of the General Laws, as amended by chapters
3 one hundred seventy-one and four hundred and sixty-
4 eight of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-four,
5 is hereby further amended by striking out the follow-
6 ing sentence in lines twelve, thirteen and fourteen:—
7 “In the city of Boston, the polls shall be opened at
8 six o'clock in the forenoon and shall be kept open at
9 least ten hours continuously,”—and by striking out
10 the word “other” in said line fourteen,—so that
11 said section, as amended shall read as follows:—
12 *Section 64.* Notices or warrants for state and city
13 elections and for the election of town officers in towns
14 where official ballots are used shall specify by name
15 all the offices to be voted for, and state, in the form
16 in which it will appear upon the ballot, any question

17 submitted to the voters. They shall specify the time
18 when the polls will be opened, and in cities and in
19 towns when voting by precincts, when the polls will be
20 closed, and in towns when not voting by precincts,
21 when they may be closed.

22 The polls shall in no case be kept open after eight
23 o'clock in the evening.

24 In cities, the polls may be opened as early as fifteen
25 minutes before six o'clock in the forenoon, and shall
26 be opened as early as ten o'clock in the forenoon, and
27 shall be kept open at least six hours.

28 In towns, at the election of state and town officers,
29 the polls may be opened as early as fifteen minutes
30 before six o'clock in the forenoon, and shall be opened
31 as early as twelve o'clock, noon, and shall be kept
32 open at least four hours, and until the time specified
33 in the warrant when they may or will be closed; and
34 in towns not voting by precincts they may be kept
35 open for such longer time as the meeting shall direct.
36 At annual town meetings they shall be kept open at
37 least one hour for the reception of votes upon the
38 question of licensing the sale of certain non-intoxi-
39 cating beverages, as defined in section one of chapter
40 one hundred and thirty-eight. After an announce-
41 ment has been made by the presiding officer of a time
42 so fixed for closing the polls they shall not be closed
43 at an earlier hour.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its
2 acceptance during the current year by vote of the
3 city council of said city subject to the provisions of
4 its charter but not otherwise.



