

HOUSE No. 978

By Messrs. Birmingham and Higgins of Boston, petition of Charles H. McGlue and another that provision be made for expediting the counting of votes cast at state elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act to expedite the Counting of the Votes cast at State Elections for All Offices and Questions.

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 one hundred and twelve of
2 chapter fifty-four of the General Laws is hereby re-
3 pealed and the following new section is substituted
4 therefor:—

5 *Section 112.* The clerk of each city and town
6 immediately upon receipt of the record of votes cast
7 in any state election for any state-wide office on the
8 ballot shall transmit to the state secretary at once
9 by telegraph the vote for such office. The state secre-
10 tary shall be provided with suitable public quarters
11 such as the Gardiner auditorium, whereby the votes
12 as received shall be publicly posted and arrangements
13 made so that all persons interested may receive this
14 information throughout the night of state election
15 and the day succeeding same until reports from all
16 cities and towns have been received and tabulated.

17 Recount changes, if any, shall also be recorded. The
18 clerk of each city and town shall also immediately
19 transmit by special delivery mail to the secretary
20 of state copies of the records of all votes cast for
21 all offices on the ballot, together with the records of
22 votes cast on all public questions, referenda or con-
23 stitutional amendments, said records to be certified
24 by the city or town clerk. These records shall also be
25 made public at once. Where changes occur from the
26 telegraphic transmission said corrections shall be made
27 on the public posting place.

28 The clerk of each city and town, within ten days,
29 and in Boston the election commissioners, within
30 fifteen days, after the day of any state election shall
31 transmit to the state secretary, copies of the records of
32 votes for all offices on the state ballot, together with
33 the records of votes cast on any constitutional amend-
34 ment, law or proposed law, or any question submitted
35 to them by statute in any senatorial or representative
36 district. Said record shall be certified by the alder-
37 men, selectmen or election commissioners and at-
38 tested and sealed by the clerk or by said commissioners.

1 SECTION 2. The state secretary within twenty
2 days of the state election shall issue certificates of
3 election to such persons as appear to be chosen to any
4 and all offices on the state ballot and shall give to the
5 newspapers an abstract of the records of votes cast
6 for all offices, as well as the votes cast on all questions
7 on the ballot.

1 SECTION 3. Sections one hundred and fifteen and
2 one hundred and sixteen of chapter fifty-four of the
3 General Laws are hereby repealed.