

HOUSE . . . . No. 1853

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 1, 1945.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was re-committed the Bill eliminating the nomination of candidates by political parties in the town of Dracut (House, No. 1324), report that the same ought to pass in the form of a new draft herewith submitted (House, No. 1853).

For the committee,

GEORGE E. RAWSON.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five.

### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PRELIMINARY ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF DRACUT.

*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. Any person who is qualified to vote  
2 in the town of Dracut may be a candidate for an  
3 elective town office therein and shall be entitled to  
4 have his name as such candidate printed on the official  
5 ballot to be used at a preliminary election; provided,  
6 that he shall file nomination papers provided by the  
7 town clerk containing a number of signatures certified  
8 as voters of the town equal to one per cent of the  
9 number of votes for governor cast at the preceding  
10 biennial state election.

1 SECTION 2. The preliminary election shall be held  
2 twenty-one days preceding every regular or special  
3 town election, except that if the town accepts section  
4 one hundred and three A of chapter fifty-four of the  
5 General Laws it shall be held on the twenty-eighth  
6 day preceding the regular town election.

1 SECTION 3. No primary or caucus for the nomina-  
2 tion of town officers shall be held.

1 SECTION 4. Nomination papers must be filed with  
2 the town clerk not later than five o'clock in the after-  
3 noon of the eleventh day preceding the preliminary  
4 election. Every nomination paper shall be submitted  
5 to the registrars of voters for certification of the names  
6 thereon on or before five o'clock in the afternoon of the  
7 seventh day preceding the day on which it must be  
8 filed with the clerk.

1 SECTION 5. The election officers shall, immediately  
2 upon the closing of the polls at the preliminary elec-  
3 tion, count the ballots and ascertain the number of  
4 votes cast in the several voting places for each can-  
5 didate, and forthwith make return thereof upon  
6 blanks to be furnished, as in regular elections, to the  
7 town clerk who shall canvass said returns and shall  
8 forthwith determine the result thereof, and post the  
9 same in five conspicuous places in the town.

1 SECTION 6. The two persons receiving at a pre-  
2 liminary election the highest number of votes for  
3 nomination for an office shall be the sole candidates  
4 for that office whose names may be printed on the  
5 official ballot to be used at the regular or special  
6 election at which such office is to be filled, and no  
7 acceptance of a nomination at a preliminary election  
8 shall be necessary to its validity.

9 If two or more persons are to be elected to the same  
10 office at such regular or special election the several  
11 persons in number equal to twice the number so to  
12 be elected receiving at such preliminary election the  
13 highest number of votes for nomination for that  
14 office shall be the sole candidates for that office whose  
15 names may be printed on the official ballot.

16 If the preliminary election results in a tie vote  
17 among candidates for nomination receiving the lowest  
18 number of votes, which, but for said tie vote, would  
19 entitle a person receiving the same to have his name  
20 printed upon the official ballot for the election, all  
21 candidates participating in said tie vote shall have  
22 their names printed upon the official ballot, although  
23 in consequence there be printed thereon candidates  
24 to a number exceeding twice the number to be elected.

1 SECTION 7. If at the expiration of the time for  
2 filing nomination papers candidates to be voted for  
3 at any preliminary election not more than twice as  
4 many such papers have been filed with the town clerk  
5 for an office as are to be elected to such office, the  
6 candidates whose nomination papers have thus been  
7 filed shall be deemed to have been nominated to said  
8 office, and their names shall be voted on for such  
9 office at the succeeding regular or special election, as  
10 the case may be, and the town clerk shall not print  
11 said names upon the ballot to be used at said pre-  
12 liminary election and no other nomination to said  
13 office shall be made. If in consequence it shall  
14 appear that no names are to be printed upon the  
15 official ballot to be used at any preliminary election  
16 in the town, no preliminary election shall be held.

1 SECTION 8. Except as otherwise provided in this  
2 act, the laws of the commonwealth governing town  
3 elections, special elections of town officers and special  
4 elections in towns shall, so far as applicable, govern  
5 such elections in the town of Dracut.

1 SECTION 9. This act shall be submitted to the  
2 voters of the town of Dracut at the annual town

3 meeting to be held in the year nineteen hundred and  
4 forty-six, in the form of the following question, which  
5 shall be printed on the official ballot used for the elec-  
6 tion of town officers: — “Shall an act passed by the  
7 general court in the year nineteen hundred and forty-  
8 five, entitled ‘An Act providing for preliminary elec-  
9 tions in the town of Dracut’ be accepted?”

10 If a majority of the voters voting thereon  
11 vote in the affirmative in answer to said  
12 question, this act shall thereupon take full effect,  
13 but not otherwise.

<b>YES.</b>	
<b>NO.</b>	

The following is a list of the lands which have been surveyed and classified by the Commission of the General Land Office, and which are now available for sale to the public. The lands are described in the following table:

Section	Tract	Area	Classification
1	1000	1000	Open
2	2000	2000	Open
3	3000	3000	Open
4	4000	4000	Open
5	5000	5000	Open
6	6000	6000	Open
7	7000	7000	Open
8	8000	8000	Open
9	9000	9000	Open
10	10000	10000	Open

The lands are available for sale to the public at the following prices: Open lands, \$1.00 per acre; Improved lands, \$5.00 per acre. The lands are available for sale to the public at the following prices: Open lands, \$1.00 per acre; Improved lands, \$5.00 per acre. The lands are available for sale to the public at the following prices: Open lands, \$1.00 per acre; Improved lands, \$5.00 per acre.



