

# SENATE . . . . No. 457

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To accompany the petition of Edward M. Rowe that provision be made for optional proceedings relative to ballots after the close of the polls, and for the counting of votes. Election Laws.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR OPTIONAL PROCEEDINGS RELATIVE TO BALLOTS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE POLLS, AND FOR THE COUNTING OF VOTES.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter fifty-four of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after section one hundred and  
3 five the following section:—  
4 *Section 105A.* In any city which accepts this sec-  
5 tion, by vote of the city council, as soon as the polls  
6 have closed the election officers shall then, publicly  
7 and in the presence of the other election officers,  
8 count audibly and distinctly the number of names  
9 checked on each list and announce the same. The  
10 warden and clerk of the precinct at each polling place  
11 shall then seal the ballot box without opening it, and  
12 in such manner that ballots cannot be removed there-  
13 from or inserted therein without breaking the seal,  
14 and shall deliver such ballot box forthwith accom-

15 panied by a police officer, to the central counting  
16 place as determined by the mayor and aldermen, in  
17 such manner as the city clerk may direct. The  
18 warden and clerk shall also transmit the voting lists,  
19 the record of the ballot box register and the ballots  
20 spoiled in a separate container, and they shall certify  
21 thereon as to the identity of the contents thereof.  
22 At the central counting place the ballot boxes shall  
23 be opened and the number of ballots found therein  
24 recorded and compared with the records sent from  
25 the polling places. All such ballots when counted,  
26 shall be counted by wards and precincts and when-  
27 ever the count of any precinct has been completed  
28 the count shall be publicly announced.