

SENATE No. 184

To accompany the petition of John Swift and another for an amendment of the law relative to the ballots used at State elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen.

AN ACT

To amend the Law relative to the Ballots used at State 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. The official ballot for use at state
2 elections shall be printed in parallel vertical col-
3 umns. At the top of each column shall appear a
4 circle with the name of the political party repre-
5 sented by the persons nominated for office in said
6 column and there shall also be printed upon said
7 ballot a blank column with spaces left for each of-
8 fice, to be followed at said election in the election
9 district in which said ballot is to be used.

1 SECTION 2. Any voter desiring to vote a straight
2 ticket shall be allowed to place a cross mark X in

3 the circle at the top of the column of the political
4 party of his choice and such a mark shall be counted
5 as a vote for the nominees of said party of all of-
6 fices contained in said column.

1 SECTION 3. If the party column so marked for
2 a straight ticket does not contain the names of can-
3 didates for all offices for which a voter is entitled
4 to vote, or the number of names of candidates for
5 any office equal to the number for whom he is en-
6 titled to vote, he may write in the space in said
7 column designated for such office and containing
8 the name of no candidate, the name of any person
9 for whom he desires to vote for such office, or he
10 may place a cross mark X in the voting space op-
11 posite the name of any candidate for such office
12 appearing in any other party column.

1 SECTION 4. A voter desiring to vote for a por-
2 tion only of the candidates whose names appear in
3 any one party column, i.e., to vote a split ticket,
4 shall make no cross mark X in the circle at the
5 head of any party column but may make a cross
6 mark X before the name of each candidate for whom
7 he is entitled to vote and may also write in the
8 space in the blank column, referred to above, the
9 name of any person not printed on the ballot for
10 whom he desires to vote for any particular office.
11 In no case, however, shall a ballot be valid if a per-
12 son shall vote for more than one candidate for any
13 office where there is one office to be filled or for more
14 than a number of candidates allowed where there
15 is more than one office to be filled and except as
16 above any person who votes a straight ticket, so

17 called, shall not have the right to vote for other
18 individual candidates.

1 SECTION 5. All acts and parts of acts not con-
2 sistent herewith are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect on the first
2 day of January, nineteen hundred and sixteen.

