

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1502

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Bill accompanying the petition of Charles H. Morrill that the length of time of residence in a city or town required as a qualification for registration of voters be reduced. Election Laws. January 21.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixteen.

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### AN ACT

Relative to the Qualifications and Registration of Voters.

*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 twelve of chapter eight hundred  
2 and thirty-five of the acts of the year nineteen hundred  
3 and thirteen is hereby amended by striking out the word  
4 "six", in the seventh line, and inserting in place thereof  
5 the word: — three, — also, by striking out the word  
6 "six", in the twenty-ninth line of said section, and insert-  
7 ing the word: — three, — in place thereof, so as to read  
8 as follows: — *Section 12.* Every male citizen of twenty-  
9 one years of age or upwards, not being a pauper or person  
10 under guardianship, who is able to read the constitu-  
11 tion of the commonwealth in the English language and to  
12 write his name, and who has resided within the common-  
13 wealth one year, and within the city or town in which

14 he claims a right to vote, three calendar months last pre-  
15 ceding a state, city or town election, may have his name  
16 entered upon the list of voters in such city or town, and  
17 shall have the right to vote therein in any such election  
18 or in any meeting held for the transaction of town affairs  
19 upon complying with the requirements hereinafter set  
20 forth; and, except as above provided, no male person  
21 shall have his name entered upon the list of voters or  
22 have the right to vote, except that no person who is pre-  
23 vented from reading or writing as aforesaid by a physical  
24 disability, or who had the right to vote on the first day  
25 of May in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven.  
26 shall, if otherwise qualified, be deprived of the right  
27 to vote by reason of not being able so to read or write;  
28 and no person who, having served in the army or navy  
29 of the United States in the time of war, has been honora-  
30 bly discharged from such service, if otherwise qualified to  
31 vote, shall be disqualified therefor on account of receiv-  
32 ing or having received aid from any city or town; and  
33 further, no person, otherwise qualified to vote for na-  
34 tional or state officers, shall, by reason of a change of  
35 residence within the commonwealth, be disqualified from  
36 voting for such officers in the city or town from which  
37 he has removed his residence until the expiration of three  
38 calendar months from the time of such removal.

1 SECTION 2. Section forty-six of chapter eight hun-  
2 dred and thirty-five of the acts of the year nineteen  
3 hundred and thirteen is hereby amended by striking out  
4 the word "six", in the seventh line thereof, and insert-  
5 ing in its place the word:—three,—so as to read as  
6 follows:—*Section 46.* Every male applicant for reg-  
7 istration, except in Boston, whose name has not been  
8 transmitted to the registrars as provided in section six-

9 teen, shall present a tax bill or notice from the collector  
10 of taxes, or a certificate from the assessors showing that  
11 he was assessed as a resident of the city or town on the  
12 preceding first day of April, or a certificate that he be-  
13 came a resident therein at least three months preceding,  
14 the election at which he claims the right to vote, and the  
15 same shall be prima facie evidence of his residence. In  
16 Boston every such applicant whose name has not been  
17 transmitted to the election commissioners as provided by  
18 law, shall present a certificate from the listing board as  
19 provided by law, and the same shall be prima facie  
20 evidence of his residence.

