

HOUSE No. 1284

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 1, 1918.

The committee on Metropolitan Affairs, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1000) of John L. Donovan relative to the number of wards and voting precincts in the city of Boston, report the accompanying bill.

For the committee,

PHILIP J. FEINBERG.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighteen.

AN ACT

Relative to Wards and Voting Precincts in the City of
Boston.

*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 two hundred and seventeen of
2 chapter eight hundred and thirty-five of the acts of
3 nineteen hundred and thirteen is hereby amended by
4 inserting after the word "precincts", in the fifteenth line,
5 the following:— or in Boston if a voting precinct shall
6 in any year according to such registration show such a
7 decrease in the number of voters that in the judgment of
8 the election commissioners there should be a new division
9 of precincts, the city council may in like manner either
10 add such precinct to an existing precinct, or make a new
11 division of the ward into precincts, — so as to read as
12 follows:— *Section 217.* Each city shall be divided into
13 convenient voting precincts, designated by numbers or
14 letters and containing not more than one thousand voters.
15 Every ward shall constitute a voting precinct by itself,
16 or shall be divided into such precincts. If a ward con-
17 stituting one precinct contains less than one thousand
18 voters, according to the registration of voters at the
19 preceding annual city election, the aldermen may, and if

20 it contains more than one thousand voters, shall, on or
21 before the first Monday of July, divide it into two or
22 more voting precincts. If a voting precinct shall, in any
23 year, according to such registration, contain more than
24 one thousand voters, the aldermen shall in like manner
25 either divide such precinct into two or more voting pre-
26 cincts or shall make a new division of the ward into
27 voting precincts; or in Boston if a voting precinct shall
28 in any year according to such registration show such a
29 decrease in the number of voters that in the judgment
30 of the election commissioners there should be a new
31 division of precincts, the city council may in like manner
32 either add such precinct to an existing precinct, or make
33 a new division of the ward into precincts; so that no
34 precinct shall contain more than one thousand voters.
35 Such precincts shall be so established as to contain, as
36 nearly as may be, an equal number of voters, shall consist
37 of compact and contiguous territory entirely within one
38 ward, and be bounded, so far as possible, by the centre
39 line of known streets or ways or by other well-defined
40 limits.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

