

HOUSE No. 1649

By Mr. Chmura of Holyoke, petition of Charles H. McGlue for legislation to provide for party voting at state elections. Election laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Three.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PARTY VOTING 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. Section 77 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out said section and inserting in
3 place thereof the following new section:—

4 *Section 77.* The voter on receiving his ballot shall, without
5 leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to one of the marking
6 compartments, and shall, except in the case of voting for presi-
7 dential electors, prepare his ballot by marking a cross (X) in
8 the square at the right of the name of each candidate for whom
9 he intends to vote, or by inserting the name and residence of
10 such candidate in the space provided therefor and marking a
11 cross (X) in the square at the right, or if he so selects, the voter
12 may place a cross (X) in one of the circles at the top of the bal-
13 lot, which circles are to be politically designated by the name or
14 insignia of the legally established political parties in our com-
15 monwealth. A cross (X) in such a circle shall count as a vote
16 for each candidate of that particular party that appears upon
17 said ballot. These circles shall appear upon the ballot in the
18 same order as that in which the gubernatorial candidates fin-
19 ished in the preceding state election, the party receiving the
20 highest vote being in the first place, the party receiving the
21 second largest vote being in second place, et cetera. Upon a
22 question submitted by the vote of the people, the voter shall

23 prepare his ballot by marking a cross (X) in the square at the
24 right of the answer which he intends to give.

1 SECTION 2. The same right to vote a straight party ticket,
2 shall be given a voter who is using a voting machine, by pro-
3 viding for the use of a party-designated lever which when pulled
4 down, will automatically cast a vote for each candidate on the
5 ballot of the party that the voter desires to support.