

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5451

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By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of James H. Kurland and John A. Businger that unenrolled voters be authorized to vote at primary elections and retain their status as independent voters. Election Laws.

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## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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AN ACT TO ALLOW INDEPENDENT VOTERS TO VOTE IN ALL PRIMARY ELECTIONS WITHOUT LOSING THEIR INDEPENDENT STATUS.

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

1 The first paragraph of section 37 of chapter 53 of the  
2 General Laws, as appearing in section 14 of chapter 334 of the  
3 acts of 1943, is hereby amended by striking out the last two  
4 sentences and inserting in place thereof the following sen-  
5 tences: — If the party enrollment of the voter is not shown on  
6 the voting list he shall be asked by the ballot clerk with which  
7 political party he desires to be enrolled or declared, and the  
8 ballot clerk, upon reply, shall distinctly announce the name of  
9 such political party and shall record the voter's selection upon  
10 the voting list. If the voter does not wish to be enrolled in  
11 such political party, but merely declares himself a member of  
12 such party for purposes of voting in said primary election, he  
13 shall so inform the ballot clerk who shall then make such  
14 notation on the voting list. The ballot clerk shall then give the  
15 voter one ballot of the political party in which he is thus  
16 enrolled or declared.

