

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 6212

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 27, 1973.

The Committee on Election Laws, to whom was recommitted the Bill terminating the registration of voters on the fourteenth day prior to a special town meeting (House, No. 1009); and to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1206) of Francis C. Lapointe relative to establishing the time between elections and the close of voter registration sessions; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1680) of Edward M. Dickson and Maurice E. Ronayne, Jr., for legislation to further regulate the time for registration of voters during the year in which presidential electors are to be chosen; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5270) of John A. Businger relative to reducing the registration deadline in presidential elections from twenty-nine days to twenty-eight days; the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5275) of the Citizens for Participation Politics and John A. Businger that provision be made for continuous sessions by registrars of voters; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5634) of Michael Paul Feeney relative to closing voter registration thirty days before certain elections, report recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6212) ought to pass.

For the committee,

GEORGE KEVERIAN.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TIME BETWEEN ELECTIONS AND THE CLOSE OF VOTER REGISTRATION SESSIONS.

*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. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 26, as most recently amended  
3 by section 5 of chapter 382 of the acts of 1971, and inserting in  
4 place thereof the following section: —

5 *Section 26.* The registrars, for the purpose of registering  
6 voters and receiving applications to qualify under section one A  
7 for voting for electors of president and vice-president, in the  
8 manner hereinafter provided, shall hold such day and evening  
9 sessions as the town by by-law or the city by ordinance shall  
10 prescribe and such other sessions at locations that they deem  
11 effective for the purpose of registering voters, and they may, for  
12 such purposes, use mobile registration units; but, except as pro-  
13 vided in sections thirty-four and fifty, there shall be no registra-  
14 tion of voters between ten o'clock in the evening on the twenty-  
15 eighth day preceding, and the day following, the biennial state  
16 primary, the presidential primary and the biennial state elec-  
17 tion, nor in any city between ten o'clock in the evening on the  
18 twenty-eighth day preceding and the day following a city elec-  
19 tion, or a city primary or preliminary election, nor in any town  
20 between ten o'clock in the evening on the twenty-eighth day  
21 preceding and the day following the annual town meeting not-  
22 withstanding any contrary provision in any special law. No appli-  
23 cation under section one A to qualify for voting for electors o  
24 president and vice-president shall be received between seven  
25 o'clock in the evening on the twenty-eighth day preceding, and  
26 the day following, an election at which such electors are to be  
27 chosen. If, however, a voter desiring to vote at a regular or special  
28 primary or election applies for registration during a period prior  
29 to such primary or election when registration therefor is permit-  
30 ted by the provisions of this section relative to such primary or

31 election but is prohibited by the provisions of this section rela-  
32 tive to registration before some earlier primary or election, he  
33 shall be registered if qualified and his name shall be placed on the  
34 voting lists for primaries and elections commencing with such  
35 later primary or election. The time and place of registration and  
36 for receiving applications under section one A to qualify for  
37 voting for electors of president and vice-president shall be the  
38 same for male and female applicants.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by  
2 striking out section 28, as most recently amended by section 6 of  
3 said chapter 382, and inserting in place thereof the following  
4 section: —

5 *Section 28.* They shall hold a continuous session from nine  
6 o'clock ante meridian until ten o'clock in the evening on the last  
7 day for registration prescribed under section twenty-six, except  
8 that in towns having less than three hundred voters said session  
9 shall be sufficient if it includes the time from two to four o'clock  
10 in the afternoon and from seven to ten o'clock in the evening.  
11 They shall hold a continuous session from twelve o'clock noon  
12 until ten o'clock in the evening on the twenty-eighth day pre-  
13 ceding an election at which electors of president and vice-presi-  
14 dent are to be elected, for the purpose of qualifying persons who  
15 have resided in the commonwealth at least twenty-eight days  
16 preceding such election, but less than six months preceding such  
17 election and who are eligible to qualify for voting for presidential  
18 electors under the provisions of section one A, provided, further,  
19 that they shall hold a continuous session from twelve o'clock  
20 noon until ten o'clock in the evening on the Saturday preceding  
21 the last day for registration for all elections.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by  
2 striking out section 29, as most recently amended by chapter 89  
3 of the acts of 1970, and inserting in place thereof the following  
4 section: —

5 *Section 29.* They shall, in some suitable place, hold a contin-  
6 uous session from twelve o'clock noon until seven o'clock in the  
7 evening, on the twenty-eighth day preceding a special election or

8 the third day preceding a special town meeting, notwithstanding  
9 any contrary provision in any general or special law. Registration  
10 shall cease at seven o'clock in the evening of the day on which  
11 such session is held.