
By Mr. Owens, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 527) of Bill Owens, Henry A. Walker, Michael F. Flaherty and others for legislation pertaining to election laws. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PERTAINING TO ELECTION LAWS.

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

- 1 1. Every legal resident of the Commonwealth who has at-
2 tained the age of seventeen years has the right to reg-
3 ister to vote regardless of race, creed, color, national
4 origin, sex, religion.
- 5 2. All registration sessions must be publicly and conspicu-
6 ously posted, advertised, and disseminated.
7 Failure by any registrar to fulfill this duty may mean the
8 invalidation of the primary or election immediately suc-
9 ceeding such act of non-compliance.
- 10 3. No qualified voter shall be removed, for any reason, from
11 the Annual Voter Register, unless personal written no-
12 tification from such person is sent (via registered mail,
13 return receipt requested) to the registrar, clerk, or such
14 other appropriate public official of the city or town within
15 which such person is a legal resident. Said notification
16 may be received not less than 14 days prior to any pri-
17 mary, preliminary, or election.
- 18 4. Every qualified person deemed a voter must be issued,
19 at the time of registration, an identification card that is
20 legal proof of voting eligibility. No other form of proof
21 must be required.
- 22 5. All voter registrations shall be self-renewing on an
23 annual basis unless and until personal notification from
24 such person is received by the registrar of the city or
25 town in which such person is a legal resident or qualified
26 voter informing said registrar of the intent or desire to

- 27 terminate his/her voter registration.
- 28 6. Concerning voter qualification, other than the voting
29 requirements of the verification of age and legal residence
30 within the Commonwealth, the burden of proof for any
31 invalidation of a registration, or the striking of a name
32 from the list or register, falls upon the registrar. No reg-
33 istration may be invalidated without a review so as to
34 determine probable cause for such action. Upon disposi-
35 tion in the case of cause being proved, a letter via first
36 class mail must be sent to the office of the Secretary of
37 the Commonwealth detailing the reasons for the invali-
38 dation of registration. Any and all invalidation decisions
39 may be appealed, according to laws pertaining to statutes
40 of limitation that are appropriate.
- 41 7. The appointment of assistant registrars and temporary
42 assistant registrars shall be conducted in an on-going and
43 regular manner that requires the decentralization of all
44 registration operations, duties and functions.