

SENATE No. 1782

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, March 25, 1975.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 8) of John F. Parker for legislation to regulate the nomination of certain independent candidates to public office; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 500) of Jack H. Backman, David J. Mofenson and David J. Lane for legislation to decrease the number of signatures required by an independent candidate for state office; the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 533) of George Rogers for legislation to require independents to appear on the primary ballot; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3263) of Donald R. Gaudette, Robert A. Vigneau, William Q. MacLean, Jr., Alfred Almeida and another for legislation to require that candidates for public office, who choose to run as independent candidates, be registered as undeclared voters for a minimum of one year prior to an election, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1782) (Representative Businger of Brookline dissenting)

For the Committee.

ROBERT A. HALL

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REGULATING THE NOMINATION OF CERTAIN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES TO PUBLIC OFFICE.

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 6 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by chapter 849 of the Acts of 1973, is
3 hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph: —
4 No person may be nominated for any office to be filled at a
5 state election or a city or town election following a city or
6 town primary as an independent candidate if he has been en-
7 rolled as a member of a political party, as defined in section
8 one of chapter fifty, during the twenty-eight days prior to the
9 last day for filing nomination papers with the state secretary
10 as provided in section ten.

1 SECTION 2. Section 48 of said chapter 53 is hereby amended
2 by adding the following paragraph: —
3 The name of a candidate for election to any office who is
4 nominated otherwise than by a political party, generally re-
5 ferred to as an independent candidate shall not be printed on
6 the ballot at a state election, or on the ballot at any city or
7 town election following a city or town primary, unless a cer-
8 tificate from the registrars of voters of the city or town
9 wherein such person is a registered voter, certifying that he
10 is not enrolled as a member of any political party, is filed with
11 the state secretary on or before the last day herein provided
12 for filing nomination papers. Said registrars shall issue such
13 a certificate forthwith upon request of any such unenrolled
14 candidate or his authorized representative. No such certificate
15 shall be issued to any such candidate who shall have been an
16 enrolled member of any political party twenty-eight days prior
17 to the last day for filing nomination papers with the state
18 secretary as provided by this section.