

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3198

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By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of John A. Businger relative to voter registration by mail as an alternative to personal registration. Election Laws.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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### AN ACT PROVIDING FOR VOTER REGISTRATION BY MAIL AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO PERSONAL REGISTRATION.

*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 42 of chapter 51 of the General Laws  
2 as most recently amended by chapter 477 of the acts of 1965 is  
3 hereby amended by striking the title thereto and inserting in  
4 place thereof: —

5 *Section 42.* Personal Registration of Persons Whose Names are  
6 not on Annual Register.

1 SECTION 2. Section 42A of chapter 51 of the General Laws  
2 as most recently amended by chapter 265 of the acts of 1962 is  
3 hereby amended by striking the entire section and inserting in  
4 place thereof the following: —

5 *Section 42A.* Alternative Registration by Mail.

6 Any person claiming to have the qualifications for voting in  
7 any city or town, including but not limited to physically disabled  
8 persons and any persons, or their spouses and dependents, who,  
9 by reason of their service, or by reason of being with or  
10 accompanying persons serving, in the armed forces or merchant  
11 marine of the United States, in the civilian employ of the United  
12 States outside the territorial limits of the United States or in

13 religious groups or welfare agencies assisting members of the  
 14 Armed Forces, who are officially attached to and serving with  
 15 the Armed Forces, may write to the registrars of such city or  
 16 town requesting an application for registration by mail.

17 The registrars shall, upon receipt of a request in writing send  
 18 to the applicant an application for registration by mail worded  
 19 substantially as follows: —

20 To the Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of the  
 21 City or Town of \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
 (name)

22 hereby make application for registration as a voter. I do  
 23 solemnly swear (affirm) that I am a resident of the City or  
 24 Town of \_\_\_\_\_, that I live at \_\_\_\_\_;  
 (street and number)

25 that I was born on \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
 (city & state or foreign country)

26 that I am a citizen of the United States; that I am not a person  
 27 under guardianship and am not temporarily or permanently  
 28 disqualified from voting by law because of corrupt practices in  
 29 respect to elections.

30 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature.

31 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (name of applicant)

32 Subscribed and sworn (affirmed) to before me by the above  
 33 affiant, personally known to me, or identified to my satisfac-  
 34 tion, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ in the city or  
 35 town of \_\_\_\_\_,  
 36 state or country of \_\_\_\_\_.

37 Name \_\_\_\_\_

38 Residence \_\_\_\_\_

39 Basis of Authority for Administering Oath \_\_\_\_\_

40 A card for indicating party enrollment shall also be sent to the  
41 applicant.

42 Upon receipt of said application for registration the name of  
43 the applicant shall be entered into the general register along  
44 with his party designation if any, and a notice so informing  
45 him will be sent out or his application will be refused and a  
46 notice indicating the reason for refusal will be sent to him. In  
47 order for the registration to be valid for the next preceding  
48 election or primary the application must be received by the  
49 registrars of voters or the board of elections by the last day for  
50 registration for that election. If it is not received in time, and  
51 the application is otherwise valid, the registration shall be valid  
52 after the next upcoming primary or election.

