

HOUSE No. 5034

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of John A. Businger, other members of the General Court and another for legislation to provide for voter registration in offices of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Petition signed by:

John A. Businger
Emanuel G. Serra
Bill Owens
William Q. MacLean, Jr.
Lawrence R. Alexander
John W. Olver
Kevin G. Honan
Kevin W. Fitzgerald
John E. McDonough
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Robert M. Koczera
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Massachusetts Coalition
for Electoral Reform
by: Robin Leeds

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR VOTER REGISTRATION IN REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLE OFFICES.

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, as appearing in
2 the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after
3 section 22A the following new section: —

4 Section 22B. The state secretary shall have the authority to
5 appoint assistant registrars of voters who shall be employees of
6 the registry of motor vehicles, whose duties include the issuance,
7 renewal or correction of any motor vehicle operator's license, or
8 the registration of any motor vehicle. The appointment of such
9 assistant registrars shall be for the sole purpose of assisting eligible
10 voters who are in the process of obtaining, renewing or correcting
11 a motor vehicle operator's license, or who are registering a motor
12 vehicle to register to vote or to change or correct said voter
13 registration.

14 Assistant voter registration officers appointed under this
15 section shall, in the performance of their duties, have all the
16 powers, and be subject to all the obligations and penalties, of
17 registrars of voters, but their doings shall be under the direction,
18 and subject to the revision and acceptance, of the state secretary.
19 Such assistance registrars shall, before entering upon their official
20 duties, take the oath of office as provided for in section 23, and
21 shall hold such office for as long as such person is an employee
22 of the registry of motor vehicles, whose duties include the issuance,

23 renewal or correction of any motor vehicle operator's license, or
24 the registration of any motor vehicle.

1 SECTION 2. Section 36 of said chapter 51, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the word "applicants.",
3 in line 15, the following: —

4 Further, the state secretary shall provide in sufficient quantity
5 to the registry of motor vehicles, blank forms for affidavits of voter
6 registration substantially in the form prescribed by this section,
7 but also including a space for the name of the assistant registrar
8 before whom said affidavit was executed, and a space for the name
9 of the registry of motor vehicles office where such registration was
10 conducted and what proof of residence was offered, if any.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 51, as so appearing, is hereby
2 further amended by inserting after section 42F the following new
3 section: —

4 Section 42E. Registrars in cities and towns shall receive
5 affidavits of registration from the registry of motor vehicles, as
6 provided for in sections forty-six to forty-seven B, inclusive. Upon
7 receipt of such affidavits, registrars, shall mail a notification to
8 such individuals who have been duly registered informing them
9 that they are so registered. Such notification shall be made at a
10 cost to the commonwealth.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 53 the following new
3 section: —

4 Section 53A. The state secretary shall design and provide to
5 the registry of motor vehicles in sufficient quantity a standard
6 notice informing the public of the availability of voter registration,
7 which notice shall be posted prominently in each registry of motor
8 vehicles office within the commonwealth as provided for in
9 section 29B of chapter 90.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by inserting after section 29A the following
3 new section: —

4 Section 29B. The registrar shall require all employees, whose
5 duties include the issuance, renewal or correction of any motor

6 vehicle operator's license, or the registration of any motor vehicle,
7 to be deputized as assistant registrars of voters, as provided for
8 in section 22B of chapter 51. The registrar shall further require
9 all such assistant registrars of voters to ask each individual
10 appearing before them for the purpose of obtaining, renewing or
11 correcting any motor vehicle operator's license, or the registering
12 of any motor vehicle, whether such individual is an eligible voter
13 under section one of chapter 51, whether he is registered to vote
14 and if he is not so registered, if such individual would like to so
15 register; and further if such individual is so registered, if he would
16 like to change or correct his registration, as provided for in
17 chapter 51. Such voter registration shall be carried out in the
18 manner set forth in chapter 51 on the affidavit forms provided
19 by the state secretary under section 36 of said chapter.

20 In addition, the registrar shall cause to be prominently posted
21 in every registry of motor vehicles office such notices as provided
22 by the state secretary, under section 53A of chapter 54, informing
23 the public of the availability of voter registration at said registry.

24 Upon receipt of affidavits of voter registration, and changes or
25 corrections in voter registration, as herein provided, the registrar
26 shall forthwith forward said affidavit, change or correction to the
27 appropriate board of registrars of voters.