
By Mr. Rawson of Newton, petition of George E. Rawson that candidates for delegates or alternate delegates to national political conventions be required to pledge themselves to vote thereat for certain candidates for nomination for the office of President of the United States. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Two.

AN ACT REQUIRING CANDIDATES FOR DELEGATES OR ALTERNATE DELEGATES TO NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY CONVENTIONS TO PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO VOTE THEREAT FOR CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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 34 of chapter 53 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out the fourth paragraph, as ap-
3 pearing in section 3 of chapter 406 of the acts of 1953, and insert-
4 ing in place thereof the following paragraph:—

5 Names of candidates for delegates or alternate delegates to
6 national conventions of political parties when pledged to candi-
7 dates for nomination for president as provided in section seventy
8 E and names of candidates for ward or town committees shall be
9 arranged and numbered in groups in such order as may be de-
10 termined by lot, under the direction of the state secretary, who
11 shall notify each state committee and give a representative of
12 each such committee an opportunity to be present. When neces-
13 sary, groups may be printed on the ballot in two or more columns.
14 Opposite the name of each candidate for president there shall be
15 printed on the ballot the number of the group pledged to him.
16 The names of the candidates for president who have filed a writ-
17 ten assent as provided in section seventy E shall be printed at the
18 top of the ballot under the heading candidates for president and
19 the names of the delegates in the same numbered group shall
20 follow in the same order after the names of all the candidates for

21 president appear on the ballot. A vote in the square opposite
22 the name of any candidate for president shall be counted for the
23 entire slate of delegates pledged for such candidate. A voter
24 may vote for any individual candidate in a group if he has not
25 voted for the slate as a whole.

1 — SECTION 2. Section 70D of said chapter 53 is hereby amended
2 by striking out the fourth sentence, as most recently amended
3 by section 1 of chapter 74 of the acts of 1956, and inserting in
4 place thereof the two following sentences: — Section forty-five
5 shall apply to such papers for candidates to be voted for at presi-
6 dential primaries except that they shall not contain the eight
7 word statement referred to in said section; provided, that a
8 candidate for delegate or alternate delegate to a national con-
9 vention shall state the name of the candidate for president for
10 whom he is pledged to vote. When such nomination papers are
11 filed in the office of the state secretary there shall be included
12 thereon as part of the acceptance of nomination a statement
13 signed under the penalty of perjury, that the candidate will vote
14 at the national party convention for the candidate for president
15 to whom he is pledged on the first and succeeding ballots until
16 he is convinced that such candidate for nomination for president
17 lacks the necessary votes for nomination.

1 SECTION 3. Section 70E of said chapter 53, as most recently
2 amended by chapter 764 of the acts of 1951, is hereby further
3 amended by striking out the fourth, fifth and sixth sentences and
4 inserting in place thereof the following: — The ballot shall also
5 contain the name of the candidate for president for whom a
6 delegate or alternate delegate pledges himself to vote for at the
7 national political convention in the following form: — “Pledged
8 to vote for (name of candidate for president)” but no such pledge
9 by any candidate for delegate or alternate delegate nor name of
10 such shall appear upon the ballot unless such candidate for nomi-
11 nation for president files his written assent thereto with the state
12 secretary on or before five o'clock in the afternoon of the last
13 day for filing nomination papers. Such assent may be communi-
14 cated by telegraph or by a written statement filed with the state
15 secretary by an authorized representative or committee repre-
16 senting such candidate for nomination for president, — so that
17 the section will read as follows: — *Section 70E.* The state secre-

18 tary shall cause to be placed on the official ballot for use at presi-
19 dential primaries, under separate headings, and in the following
20 order, the names of candidates for delegates at large, alternate
21 delegates at large, district delegates and alternate district dele-
22 gates to national conventions. The names of candidates appear-
23 ing in nomination papers containing nominations for all the
24 places to be filled shall be placed first on said ballot, arranged
25 in groups and in the same order as in the nomination papers. The
26 order in which the groups shall appear shall be determined by
27 lot in the manner provided in section thirty-four and each group
28 of candidates for alternate delegates shall immediately follow
29 the particular group of delegates with which it is affiliated. The
30 ballot shall also contain the name of the candidate for president
31 for whom a delegate or alternate delegate pledges himself to
32 vote for at the national political convention in the following
33 form: — “Pledged to vote for (name of candidate for president)”,
34 but no such pledge by any candidate for delegate or alternate
35 delegate nor the name of any such candidate for delegate or
36 alternate delegate shall appear upon the ballot unless the candi-
37 date for nomination for president files his written assent thereto
38 with the state secretary on or before five o'clock in the after-
39 noon of the last day for filing nomination papers. Such assent
40 may be communicated by telegraph or by a written statement
41 filed with the state secretary by an authorized representative or
42 committee representing such candidate for nomination for
43 president. The name of any person shall not be printed on the
44 official ballot for any presidential primary as a candidate for the
45 office of delegate to a national convention and as a candidate for
46 the office of alternate delegate thereto nor more than once as a
47 candidate for either of such offices. Said secretary shall also
48 place on said ballot the names of candidates for state, ward and
49 town committees.

