

By Mr. O'Farrell of Malden, petition of Francis E. Kelly and George H. O'Farrell for establishing an annual Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing to be conducted by the State Treasurer and providing for the distribution of the proceeds thereof to cities and towns to be used for reducing their real estate taxes. Ways and Means (Joint).

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE STATE TREASURER, PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF TICKETS THEREUNDER AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MASSACHUSETTS SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING COMMISSION.

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

1 The General Laws are hereby amended by inserting after  
2 chapter 128B the following chapter: —

3 CHAPTER 128C.

4 MASSACHUSETTS SWEEPSTAKES.

5 *Section 1.* The state treasurer shall conduct an annual draw-  
6 ing to be known as the "Massachusetts Sweepstakes Drawing"  
7 under such plans, rules and regulations as he may adopt, subject  
8 to approval of the Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing commis-  
9 sion. The sweepstakes tickets shall be sold for three dollars  
10 each all year round by present bonded employees of said treas-  
11 urer's office and by the present bonded employees at the offices  
12 of the fourteen counties and at the three hundred and fifty-one  
13 city and town treasurers' offices. Tickets could also be sold by  
14 present bonded employees of our four hundred and twenty-nine  
15 state-chartered banks if authorized by the state treasurer.

16 The expense involved in printing of the Massachusetts sweep-  
17 stakes tickets and other absolutely necessary expenses shall be  
18 deducted from the gross receipts thereof and the balance of the  
19 gross receipts shall be divided as follows: —

20 Fifty per cent shall be distributed to all three hundred and  
21 fifty-one cities and towns and *shall* be used for the *sole* purpose  
22 of cutting real estate taxes. The remaining fifty per cent shall  
23 be awarded to the “Sweepstakes” winners in many thousands of  
24 state tax-exempt prizes, as follows: First prize, five hundred  
25 thousand dollars; forty prizes of four hundred thousand dollar.  
26 Thirty prizes of three hundred thousand dollars; twenty prizes  
27 of two hundred thousand dollars; ten prizes of one hundred  
28 thousand dollars; two hundred prizes of fifty thousand dollars,  
29 and the remainder of the profit would be awarded in thousands  
30 of other cash prizes ranging from fifty thousand dollars down to  
31 five thousand dollars.

32 The three-dollar Massachusetts sweepstakes tickets may be  
33 sold in any quantity to any person or persons over twenty-one  
34 years of age from any of our fifty states or from any country  
35 in the world who personally presents himself during working  
36 hours at any of the seven hundred and eighty aforesaid treasur-  
37 ers’ offices or banks in Massachusetts.

38 The Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing shall be held in public  
39 on Independence day, July fourth, of each year or at some date  
40 set by the Massachusetts sweepstakes commission. The official  
41 drawing of the sweepstakes winners’ numbers would be con-  
42 ducted in the same manner as the Washington, D. C., Fish Bowl  
43 Lotteries were conducted to draft our young men into the armed  
44 services. It would be held at historic Faneuil Hall, Boston, the  
45 Cradle of Liberty, which was completely destroyed by fire in  
46 seventeen hundred and sixty-five and rebuilt entirely from funds  
47 from a lottery legalized by the Massachusetts legislature.

48 *Section 2.* The word “lottery” as used in sections seven to  
49 ten (inclusive) and section fourteen of chapter two hundred and  
50 seventy-one shall not be construed to mean or include any lottery  
51 conducted under this chapter.

52 *Section 3.* Whoever, other than a state-chartered bank or a  
53 state, county, city or town treasurer’s office sells said tickets, or  
54 whoever counterfeits Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing tickets,  
55 or whoever is found guilty of illegally tampering in any manner

56 in the honest and legal conduct of an annual Massachusetts  
57 sweepstakes drawing shall be punished by a compulsory jail  
58 sentence of not less than one year on their first conviction with  
59 an increased jail sentence on any and every additional conviction.

60 *Section 4.* As a further safeguard to a corrupt-proof sweep-  
61 stakes drawing, there shall be a state commission of three clergy-  
62 men to be known as the "Massachusetts Sweepstakes Drawing  
63 Commission" to be appointed by the governor, with the consent  
64 of the governor's council, for a term of three years. These three  
65 clergymen from the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths, shall  
66 serve in a public-spirited and civic-minded capacity without  
67 compensation and shall be three spiritual leaders who are keenly  
68 interested in our state treasury obtaining new revenue in a legal  
69 manner to be used to cut present high real estate taxes and high  
70 rents for all the residents of Massachusetts. This commission  
71 shall approve all rules and regulations necessary for the honest  
72 and efficient administration of a yearly Massachusetts sweep-  
73 stakes drawing.

74 *Section 5.* The department of the state auditor shall make a  
75 public audit of all the tickets, books, prizes and records to  
76 further guarantee the honest and efficient administration of an  
77 annual Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing.

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