

HOUSE No. 262.

[Bill accompanying petition of JOHN B. NEWHALL. Election Laws.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-four.

AN ACT

Relative to the Qualification of Voters.

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 forty-eight of chapter four hundred and seven-
2 teen of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety
3 is hereby amended by striking out all of said section
4 after the word "memory" in the tenth line, and insert-
5 ing in place thereof the following: "And such reading
6 shall be determined and tested as follows: All regis-
7 trars of voters shall be furnished by the secretary of the
8 Commonwealth with the constitution of the Common-
9 wealth printed on uniform pasteboard slips, each containing
10 five lines of said constitution printed in small pica type.
11 "The registrars of voters shall place said slips in a box,
12 to be provided by the secretary of the Commonwealth,
13 and so constructed as to conceal the same from view.

14 Each person applying for registration shall be required
15 to draw one of said slips from the box and read the five
16 lines printed thereon in full view of the registration
17 officers. Each slip shall be returned to the box imme-
18 diately after the test is finished, and the contents of the
19 box shall be shaken up by a registration officer before
20 another drawing is made. No person failing to read the
21 slip thus drawn shall be registered as a voter.

22 “The applicant shall also be required to write his name
23 in a general register, as required by section forty-four of
24 this act,” so as to read as follows:—

25 *Section 48.* If an applicant’s qualifications have not
26 been determined by the registrars within the four years
27 next preceding his application, the registrar, in making
28 the examination, shall examine the applicant under oath
29 in regard to his qualifications; shall, unless the applicant
30 is prevented by physical disability from so doing, or
31 unless he had the right to vote on the first day of May,
32 in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-seven, require him
33 to read, in such manner as to show that he is neither
34 prompted nor reciting from memory, and such reading
35 shall be determined and tested as follows: All registrars
36 of voters shall be furnished by the secretary of the Com-
37 monwealth with the constitution of the Commonwealth,
38 printed on uniform pasteboard slips, each containing five
39 lines of said constitution printed in small pica type.

40 The registrars of voters shall place said slips in a box,
41 to be provided by the secretary of the Commonwealth,
42 and so constructed as to conceal the same from view.
43 Each person applying for registration shall be required to
44 draw one of said slips from the box and read the five
45 lines printed thereon in full view of the registration offi-
46 cers. Each slip shall be returned to the box immediately
47 after the test is finished, and the contents of the box

48 shall be shaken up by a registration officer before another
49 drawing is made. No person failing to read the slip thus
50 drawn shall be registered as a voter.

51 The applicant shall also be required to write his name
52 in a general register, as required by section forty-four
53 of this act.

