

HOUSE No. 544.

[Bill accompanying the petition of A. N. Frost for legislation relative to caucuses for the selection of candidates for senator, representatives and county officers. Election Laws. Jan. 31.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and One.

AN ACT

Relative to Political Caucuses.

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. In all caucuses held for the se-
2 lection of candidates for senator, representative to
3 the general court, or for county elective offices, all
4 names which have been filed with the secretaries
5 of the respective city or town committees as can-
6 didates for said nominations shall be placed upon
7 the ballot for said caucuses, and the persons re-
8 ceiving the aggregate vote in the entire caucuses
9 of their respective districts or counties shall be
10 the nominees of said caucuses for their respective
11 offices.

1 SECTION 2. No name of any candidate so filed
2 with the secretary of any city or town committee
3 shall be placed on the caucus ballot unless at least
4 twenty-five legal voters of the party in whose
5 caucus said nomination is to be made and who
6 shall be residents of the city or town in which said
7 name is filed, shall have personally signed a paper
8 or papers placing said name in nomination, the
9 same to be filed with said secretary of city or
10 town committee at the time said nomination paper
11 of the candidate is filed.

1 SECTION 3. The secretaries of the various city
2 or town committees shall, within forty-eight hours
3 after the caucus shall be closed, or, in case of a
4 recount of the votes cast, within forty-eight hours
5 after the recount shall have been completed, cer-
6 tify by sworn statement to the district or county
7 committees the result of the votes cast in their
8 respective cities or towns. The district and
9 county committees shall, within forty-eight hours
10 after the receipt of such statement, certify to the
11 secretary of the Commonwealth by sworn state-
12 ment the candidate or candidates having the high-
13 est number of votes in their respective districts or
14 counties for the respective offices to be elected;
15 and these shall then be placed upon the official
16 ballot as nominees of said party for said offices in
17 their respective districts or counties.

1 SECTION 4. Each ward and town committee
2 comprising a senatorial district shall annually

3 during the month of December elect one person
4 from the respective wards and towns comprising
5 such senatorial district, who shall together consti-
6 tute the senatorial district committee; and one
7 from the respective wards and towns comprising a
8 representative district who together shall consti-
9 tute a representative district committee for the
10 ensuing year.

1 SECTION 5. The several city and town com-
2 mittees of the various counties shall annually
3 during the month of December elect one person
4 from such city or town, and the whole number so
5 chosen shall constitute the county committee for
6 the ensuing year.

1 SECTION 6. Senatorial, representative and
2 county committees shall, during the month of
3 January of each year, meet at the call of the
4 chairman of the preceding year and organize by
5 the choice of a chairman and secretary. Said
6 secretary so chosen shall, within ten days after
7 such organization, transmit to the state committee
8 of the party to which they belong, and to the sec-
9 retary of the Commonwealth, a list of members
10 of their respective committees and of officers so
11 chosen. Said committees shall then meet at the
12 call of their respective chairmen.

1 SECTION 7. Town and ward committees for
2 the purpose of organization of the said senatorial,
3 representative and county committees during the

4 current year shall, within ninety days from the
5 passage of this act, elect the committeemen above
6 provided for, who shall, at least one month pre-
7 vious to the first date assigned for caucuses, meet
8 at the call of, and at a place designated by, the
9 chairman of the respective committees who are
10 now in office.

1 SECTION 8. This act, so far as it relates to
2 county offices, shall not apply to Suffolk county.

1 SECTION 9. All acts and parts of acts incon-
2 sistent herewith are hereby repealed.