

HOUSE No. 949.

[Bill accompanying the petition of Samuel Roads, Jr., and Charles A. Dean for legislation to provide for placing a referendum upon municipal franchises and locations. Joint Judiciary. February 5.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Two.

AN ACT

To provide for a Referendum upon Municipal Franchises and Locations.

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

1 No franchise or location granted by the city council, or
2 by the mayor and aldermen of a city or the board of
3 selectmen of a town, shall hereafter go into effect until
4 five days after the same would have taken effect, under
5 existing provisions of law, if the act had never been
6 passed. At any time before such franchise or location
7 shall take effect as herein provided, and subsequent to
8 its approval by the mayor of a city or the selectmen of
9 a town, or to its passage over the veto of the mayor,
10 legal voters of such city or town, not less than one

11 hundred in number in a city, and not less than fifty in a
12 town, may file a petition in the office of the city or town
13 clerk of such city or town, asking that such franchise or
14 location shall be submitted to the voters of such city
15 or town under the provisions of this act; and in case
16 such petition shall be filed within such additional period
17 of five days, then the time when such franchise or loca-
18 tion goes into effect shall be postponed for a further
19 period of ten days.

20 If within such further period of ten days a petition
21 shall be filed in the office of the city clerk of such city
22 signed by not less than five per cent of the duly regis-
23 tered legal voters of such city or town, according to the
24 register of voters then in force, and praying for the
25 submission of such measure to the voters of such city
26 or town, then the question of accepting or rejecting such
27 measure shall be submitted to the voters of such city or
28 town at the municipal election next ensuing, or at a
29 special election; and the same shall not take effect unless
30 or until a majority of the voters, who shall vote upon such
31 question, shall have voted in favor of such acceptance.