

HOUSE No. 1518.

[Mr. Duff of Boston moves to substitute this bill for the report of the committee on Election Laws, leave to withdraw.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Two.

AN ACT

To authorize Political Parties to hold Caucuses by
Precincts in Wards of the City of Boston.

*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. All caucuses of any political
2 party in any ward of the city of Boston in which
3 such party has voted to accept the provisions of
4 this act, as hereinafter provided, shall thereafter
5 be conducted by precincts as from time to time
6 established for voting at state, municipal or special
7 elections; and all general provisions of law relat-
8 ing to the furnishing, care and protection of voting
9 places in said precincts, to the preparation and
10 furnishing of ballots for use therein, and to the

11 conduct of voting therein, and to the conduct of
12 caucus officers therein, shall apply to caucuses
13 held by precincts under the provisions of this act,
14 so far as the same are applicable and not incon-
15 sistent with the provisions hereof.

1 SECTION 2. All such caucuses shall be held in
2 the same manner and subject to the same general
3 provisions of law now applying to a single caucus
4 in a ward, except that the clerk serving in each
5 precinct shall make return to the board of elec-
6 tion commissioners of the votes cast therein in
7 the same manner as is provided for making re-
8 turns of the vote for mayor at an election. Said
9 board of election commissioners shall determine
10 the result of the balloting, and on or before twelve
11 o'clock noon of the week day following the last
12 day fixed by law for filing a petition for a recount
13 of ballots, if no such petition has been filed, or, if
14 such petition has been filed, on or before twelve
15 o'clock noon of the week day following the day
16 upon which the ballots have been recounted and
17 the results finally determined, shall, in the case
18 of a state caucus, certify and file with the secre-
19 tary of the Commonwealth certificates of nomi-
20 nation of all candidates nominated as aforesaid;
21 and the secretary of the Commonwealth shall
22 place on the proper official ballots to be used at
23 state elections, the names of all candidates nomi-
24 nated as aforesaid. The election commissioners
25 shall place on the official ballot to be used at the
26 city election the names of all candidates nomi-

27 nated at the caucuses held for the nomination
28 thereof. Said commissioners shall, within the
29 same time as heretofore specified, send to each
30 candidate nominated a certificate of his nomina-
31 tion, to each delegate to a political convention
32 and to each member of a political committee a
33 certificate of his election, and shall send to the
34 president of the city committee of the political
35 party holding caucuses a certified list of all
36 persons who have been elected or nominated at
37 the caucuses held for the state or city election.

1 SECTION 3. The caucus officers elected upon
2 the official ballot in any ward by any political
3 party which has adopted precinct caucuses as
4 herein provided shall serve in such precinct as
5 they shall by majority vote determine; and shall
6 in like manner, not less than seven days before
7 any caucus, elect a like set of officers to serve as
8 such in each of the other precincts, all of whom
9 shall be legal voters in the ward and members of
10 the party holding the caucus; and if practicable,
11 residents of the precinct in which they are to
12 serve; and the rights, powers, duties, restrictions
13 and liabilities of all such officers serving in pre-
14 cincts, whether elected upon the official ballot or
15 by those so elected as above provided, shall be
16 the same as prescribed by law for caucus officers
17 of single caucuses in wards of the city of Boston.

1 SECTION 4. Whenever precinct caucuses have
2 been adopted by any party in any ward, as here-

3 inafter provided, the board of election commis-
4 sioners shall notify the city committee of the
5 political party affected thereby, and thereafter all
6 calls for caucuses in said ward and all nomination
7 papers filed shall be made to apply to caucuses
8 in the several precincts as they now apply to one.

1 SECTION 5. Any clerk of a caucus who shall
2 fail to make a return of the results of a caucus
3 as provided in this act shall be punished by im-
4 prisonment for not more than one year.

1 SECTION 6. The question "Shall the act to
2 authorize political parties to hold caucuses by
3 precincts in wards of the city of Boston be
4 accepted?" shall be submitted to the voters at
5 the caucuses to be held in the several wards of
6 said city under existing laws to nominate candi-
7 dates or delegates to conventions held to nomi-
8 nate candidates for the state election of the year
9 nineteen hundred and two; and if in any of said
10 caucuses where not less than eight hundred
11 ballots are cast a majority of the votes upon said
12 question shall be in the affirmative, the caucuses
13 of the political party holding said caucus shall
14 thereafter be held according to the provisions of
15 the preceding sections hereof.

1 SECTION 7. The foregoing question shall be
2 resubmitted at any subsequent caucus to the voters
3 of any party in any ward which has voted not to
4 accept the provisions of this act, upon petition

5 therefor signed by not less than two hundred
6 registered voters in the ward who are members
7 of the political party about to hold the caucus and
8 filed with the election commissioners not less than
9 thirty days before the caucus; and if not less than
10 eight hundred ballots are cast therein, the pro-
11 visions of the foregoing section shall apply to said
12 caucus and the results thereof.

1 SECTION 8. The question "Shall precinct
2 caucuses be abandoned by this party in this
3 ward?" shall be submitted at any subsequent cau-
4 cus to the voters of any party in any ward which
5 has voted to accept the provisions of this act as
6 hereinbefore provided, upon petition therefor
7 signed and filed as required by the preceding
8 section; and if not less than eight hundred ballots
9 are cast in said caucus, and a majority of the votes
10 upon said question shall be in the negative, the
11 provisions of this act shall cease to apply to cau-
12 cuses of that party in that ward, unless and until
13 said provisions are again accepted upon a petition
14 therefor signed and filed in accordance with the
15 provisions of section seven hereof.

1 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon
2 its passage.

