

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 987.

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[Bill accompanying the petition of Thomas A. McQuade and others for legislation relative to assessing and registering voters in the city of Boston. Election Laws. Feb. 5.]

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Three.

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### AN ACT

Relative to assessing and registering Voters in 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. Section seventeen of chapter  
2 eleven of the Revised Laws is hereby amended  
3 by adding at the end thereof the following:— In  
4 Boston the assessors shall deliver as many copies  
5 thereof as may be necessary to the board of police  
6 commissioners, who shall have such lists investi-  
7 gated and verified by their department, and shall  
8 report the result thereof to the board of election  
9 commissioners of said Boston on or before the  
10 fifteenth day of August in each year, which report

11 shall be final as to the right of persons to vote at  
12 any election held that year, which report shall be  
13 open to the inspection of the public,—so as to  
14 read as follows:—the assessors of cities shall, on  
15 or before the fifteenth day of July in each year,  
16 and the assessors of towns having over five thou-  
17 sand inhabitants according to the latest census,  
18 state or national, shall, on or before the first day  
19 of August in each year, prepare street lists con-  
20 taining the names of all persons assessed by them  
21 for poll taxes for the current year. Such lists for  
22 cities and for towns divided into voting precincts  
23 shall be arranged by voting precincts. They  
24 shall print such lists in pamphlet form, shall de-  
25 liver to the registrars as many copies thereof as  
26 they may require, and shall hold the remaining  
27 copies for public distribution. In all other towns  
28 they shall, on or before the first day of August in  
29 each year, cause lists of all persons assessed  
30 therein for poll taxes to be prepared and con-  
31 spicuously posted in two or more public places in  
32 every such town. In Boston the assessors shall  
33 deliver as many copies thereof as may be neces-  
34 sary to the board of police commissioners, who  
35 shall have such lists investigated and verified by  
36 their department, and shall report the result of  
37 such investigation to the board of election commis-  
38 sioners of said Boston on or before the fifteenth  
39 day of August in each year, which report shall be  
40 final as to the right of persons to vote at any elec-  
41 tion held that year, which report shall be open to  
42 the inspection of the public.

1 SECTION 2. Section nineteen of chapter eleven  
2 of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by adding  
3 at the end thereof the following: — In Boston the  
4 names of all persons assessed as above provided  
5 shall be sent by the assessors as often as once  
6 each week to the board of police commissioners,  
7 who shall have such lists investigated and verified  
8 by their department, and shall report the result  
9 of such investigation within forty-eight hours of  
10 receiving such lists to the board of election com-  
11 missioners of said Boston, which report shall be  
12 final as to the right of any person so assessed to  
13 vote at any election held that year, which report  
14 shall be open to the inspection of the public, — so  
15 as to read as follows: —

16 *Section 19.* If a male person resident in a city  
17 or town on the first day of May was not assessed  
18 for a poll tax, he shall, in order to establish his  
19 right to assessment, present to the assessors a  
20 statement under oath that he was on said day a  
21 resident of such city or town and liable to pay a  
22 poll tax therein and a list under oath of his polls  
23 and estate, and shall also produce before the  
24 assessors two witnesses, who shall testify under  
25 oath that they are voters of the ward or town in  
26 which such person desires to be registered and  
27 that the statement of the applicant is true. A  
28 male person who becomes a resident of a city or  
29 town after the first day of May, and desires to be  
30 registered as a voter, shall present to the assessors  
31 a statement under oath that he has been a resident  
32 of such city or town for six months immediately

33 preceding the election at which he claims the  
34 right to vote, and shall produce before the asses-  
35 sors two witnesses, who shall testify under oath  
36 that they are voters of the ward or town in which  
37 such person desires to be registered and that the  
38 statement of the applicant is true. If the asses-  
39 sors are satisfied that such statements are true,  
40 they shall, in the first case, assess such applicant  
41 for his polls and estate, and give him a certificate  
42 that he has been a resident in such city or town  
43 the six months preceding such election; but in  
44 Boston no person shall be assessed as above pro-  
45 vided later than the first day of October. In  
46 Boston the names of all persons assessed as above  
47 provided shall be sent by the assessors as often  
48 as once each week to the board of police commis-  
49 sioners, who shall have such lists investigated and  
50 verified by their department, and shall report the  
51 result of such investigation within forty-eight  
52 hours of receiving such lists to the board of elec-  
53 tion commissioners of said Boston, which report  
54 shall be final as to the right of any person so  
55 assessed to vote at any election held that year,  
56 which report shall be open to the inspection of  
57 the public.