

HOUSE No. 202

Bill accompanying the petition of Thomas A. Niland for the abolition of enrollment of members of political parties. Election Laws. January 12.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

AN ACT

Relative to Voting at Primary Elections and to abolish Party Enrollment.

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. Hereafter no person who desires to take
2 part in a primary shall be compelled or permitted to
3 enroll his name as a member of a political party. At the
4 primaries there shall be but one official ballot and that one
5 shall contain the names of all the candidates to be voted
6 for by members of each party. The candidates of each
7 political party shall be placed upon the ballot by them-
8 selves and whoever is entitled to vote at a primary shall
9 designate the nominees of the political party for whom
10 he intends to vote by making a cross against the name of
11 the party, to be placed at the head of the list of candi-

12 dates. The order of the several political parties on the
13 ballot shall be the order in which at the last preceding
14 state election the greater number of votes was cast, that
15 is, the party for which the largest number of votes was
16 cast shall come first on the ballot and the party for which
17 the next largest number of votes was cast shall come sec-
18 ond on the ballot, and so on. It shall be unlawful for any
19 voter to vote at the primaries for the candidates of differ-
20 ent political parties, and no vote shall be counted except
21 such votes as are cast for all the nominees of one political
22 party. The ballot shall not be invalid if a mark is made
23 against the names of all the candidates of any one po-
24 litical party, but it shall be sufficient if the mark is placed
25 against the name of the political party standing at the
26 head of the list of candidates.

1 SECTION 2. So much of any act as is inconsistent here-
2 with is hereby repealed.