

HOUSE No. 1585

Bill accompanying the petition of James M. Hurley and Morton H. Burdick for the abolition of the enrollment of members of political parties. Election Laws. January 23.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

AN ACT

To abolish Party Enrollment of Members of Political Parties.

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 twelve of chapter five hundred
2 and fifty of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and
3 eleven is hereby amended by striking out the last para-
4 graph and inserting in place thereof the following:—
5 The names of the candidates of all political parties shall
6 be printed on the same ballot, but the names of candi-
7 dates of each political party shall be arranged in party
8 columns, two adjoining columns being given to each
9 political party. At the head of said party columns shall
10 be printed “official ballot of” (here shall follow the
11 party name). At the top of the ballot, extending the en-
12 tire length, shall be printed the words:— “For ballot to

13 be counted, vote for candidates of one party only.”
14 The party columns shall be arranged in such order as
15 may be determined by lot under the direction of the
16 secretary of the commonwealth, who shall notify each
17 state committee and give a representative of each commit-
18 tee an opportunity to be present, so that said section will
19 read as follows:— *Section 12.* Ballots for use at pri-
20 maries under this act shall be prepared and provided, and
21 the number thereof determined, by the secretary of the
22 commonwealth, and no other ballots shall be received or
23 counted: *provided, however,* that if the ballots provided
24 for any polling place are not delivered, or if after deliv-
25 ery they are lost, destroyed or stolen, the city or town
26 clerk or election commissioners shall prepare ballots sim-
27 ilar as far as possible, which ballots may be used.

28 The names of the candidates of all political parties
29 shall be printed on the same ballot, but the names of can-
30 didates of each political party shall be arranged in party
31 columns, two adjoining columns being given to each polit-
32 ical party. At the head of said party columns shall be
33 printed “official ballot of” (here shall follow the party
34 name). At the top of the ballot, extending the entire
35 length shall be printed the words “for ballot to be
36 counted vote for candidates of one party only.” The
37 party columns shall be arranged in such order as may be
38 determined by lot under the direction of the secretary of
39 the commonwealth, who shall notify each state commit-
40 tee and give a representative of each committee an op-
41 portunity to be present.

1 SECTION 2. Section thirteen of said chapter five hun-
2 dred and fifty is hereby amended by striking out the said
3 section and inserting in place thereof the following:—
4 *Section 13.* Each voter desiring to vote in a primary

5 shall give his name and his residence to one of the ballot
6 clerks, who shall thereupon distinctly announce the same ;
7 and if such name is found upon the voting list by the
8 ballot clerk, he shall check and repeat the name and give
9 one ballot to the voter, who shall then be admitted within
10 the guard rail.

1 SECTION 3. Section fourteen of the said chapter five
2 hundred and fifty is hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 4. Section fifteen of the said chapter five
2 hundred and fifty is hereby amended by adding the fol-
3 lowing at the end thereof:—In the counting of votes
4 when the ballots are removed from the ballot box they
5 shall first be sorted into piles, one for each party. If a
6 voter marks for candidates of more than one party, his
7 ballot shall be set aside and not counted. Ballots so set
8 aside and not counted shall be marked “void” on the
9 outside thereof and shall be preserved like other bal-
10 lots, — so that said section will read as follows:—*Sec-*
11 *tion 15.* No ballots cast at a primary under this act
12 shall be counted until the close of the polls. In the
13 counting of votes when the ballots are removed from the
14 ballot box they shall first be sorted into piles, one for
15 each party. If a voter marks for candidates of more than
16 one party his ballot shall be set aside and not counted.
17 Ballots so set aside and not counted shall be marked
18 “void” on the outside thereof and shall be preserved
19 like other ballots.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

