

# HOUSE . . . . No. 2092

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Mr. Smith of Provincetown gives notice that he will move to substitute this bill for the report of the committee on Election Laws, leave to withdraw, on the petition, accompanied by bill, House, No. 206.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

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### AN ACT

To provide that Voting shall be Compulsory at State and National Elections.

*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. It shall be the duty of every registered  
2 male voter, who is within the limits of the city or town  
3 in which he is a registered voter during the hours when  
4 the polls are open at any state or national election, to  
5 vote at such election unless his physical or mental condi-  
6 tion renders it dangerous or impossible for him to be  
7 present at the polls. Violation of the provisions of this  
8 section shall be punished by a fine of not less than two  
9 nor more than five dollars.

1 SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of every registered  
2 male voter, who fails to vote at a state or national elec-

3 tion in the city or town in which he is a registered voter,  
4 to transmit, in Boston to the election commissioners and  
5 elsewhere to the officer or officers having the powers of  
6 registrars, within ten days after the election, a written  
7 statement, signed and sworn to before a notary public  
8 or a justice of the peace, of the reason for his absence  
9 from the polls. In case the voter is physically or men-  
10 tally unable to make the said statement, it may be made  
11 for him by any other citizen of the city or town. Who-  
12 ever fails to make the statement required by this section,  
13 or makes a false statement in place thereof, shall be pun-  
14 ished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

1 SECTION 3. Failure to make and transmit the afore-  
2 said statement shall be prima facie evidence that the  
3 person failing to make the statement is guilty of a viola-  
4 tion of the provisions of section one of this act.

1 SECTION 4. It shall be the duty of registrars of voters  
2 at a state or national election to report after such elec-  
3 tion to the chief of police in their respective cities and  
4 towns, or in towns having no police department to a duly  
5 qualified constable designated for this purpose by the  
6 selectmen, the names of those registered male voters who  
7 failed to vote at said election and also failed to transmit  
8 to them the statement hereinbefore required, or who  
9 transmitted a false statement or who transmitted a state-  
10 ment containing an excuse for the failure to vote which  
11 the said officers judged to be insufficient. It shall be the  
12 duty of such chiefs of police departments and constables  
13 to prosecute the persons whose names are so transmitted  
14 to them in the municipal, district or police court or be-  
15 fore the trial justice having jurisdiction in their respec-  
16 tive cities or towns.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall be submitted to the voters  
2 of the state at the annual state election in the current  
3 year in the form of the following question, to be placed  
4 upon the official ballot: Shall voting at state and national  
5 elections be made compulsory in this state? and if ac-  
6 cepted by a majority of the voters voting thereon shall  
7 take effect at the next state election.

tion in the city or town in which he is a registered voter, to transmit, in Boston to the election commissioners and elsewhere to the officer or officers having the powers of registrars, within ten days after the election, a written statement, signed and sworn to before a notary public or a justice of the peace, of the reason for his absence from the polls. In case the voter is physically or mentally unable to make the said statement, it may be made for him by any other citizen of the city or town. Whoever fails to make the statement required by this section, or makes a false statement in place thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars.

SECTION 3. Failure to make and transmit the aforesaid statement shall be prima facie evidence that the person failing to make the statement is guilty of a violation of the provisions of section one of this act.

SECTION 4. It shall be the duty of registrars of voters at a state or national election to report after such election to the chief of police in their respective cities and towns, or in towns having no police department to a duly qualified constable designated for this purpose by the selectmen, the names of those registered male voters who failed to vote at said election and also failed to transmit to them the statement hereinbefore required, or who transmitted a false statement or who transmitted a statement containing an excuse for the failure to vote which the said officers judged to be insufficient. It shall be the duty of such chiefs of police departments and constables to prosecute the persons whose names are so transmitted to them in the municipal, district or police court or before the trial justice having jurisdiction in their respective cities or towns.

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