

AN ACT  
**HOUSE . . . . No. 2272**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 10, 1914.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 806) of Harold W. Orcutt relative to notices or warrants for calling elections, report the accompanying bill.

For the committee,

**WILLIAM M. McMORROW.**

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

### AN ACT

Relative to Notices or Warrants for calling Elections of  
State, City and Town Officers.

*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 two hundred and seventy-nine of chapter eight  
2 hundred and thirty-five of the acts of the year nineteen  
3 hundred and thirteen is hereby amended by inserting  
4 after the word "cities.", in the ninth line, the words:  
5 — and in towns when voting by precincts, — and by in-  
6 serting after the word "towns", in the tenth line, the  
7 words: — when not voting by precincts, — so as to read  
8 as follows: — *Section 279.* Notices or warrants for  
9 meetings for state and city elections and for the election  
10 of town officers in towns where official ballots are used  
11 shall specify by name all the offices to be voted for, and  
12 state in full any proposed amendment to the constitution  
13 or other question submitted to the people: *provided,*  
14 *however,* that any act submitted for acceptance may be  
15 stated by its chapter number and title only. They shall  
16 specify the time when the polls will be opened, and in  
17 cities and in towns when voting by precincts, when the  
18 polls will be closed, and in towns when not voting by  
19 precincts, when they may be closed.

20 In cities, the polls may be opened as early as six  
21 o'clock in the forenoon and shall be opened as early as  
22 ten o'clock in the forenoon and shall be kept open at  
23 least six hours, but in no case after the hour of eight  
24 o'clock in the evening.

25 In towns, at the election of state and town officers, the  
26 polls may be opened as early as fifteen minutes before  
27 six o'clock in the forenoon and shall be opened as early  
28 as twelve o'clock, noon, and shall be kept open at least  
29 four hours, and until the time specified in the warrant  
30 when they may be closed; and they may be kept open  
31 for such longer time as the meeting shall direct, but they  
32 shall not be kept open after the hour of eight o'clock  
33 in the evening. At annual town meetings they shall be  
34 kept open at least one hour for the reception of votes  
35 upon the question of licensing the sale of intoxicating  
36 liquors. After an announcement has been made by the  
37 presiding officer of a time so fixed for closing the polls  
38 they shall not be closed at an earlier hour.

39 A town may by by-law designate the hour at which the  
40 annual town meeting shall be called, and, subject to the  
41 provisions of this section, may designate the hours dur-  
42 ing which the polls shall remain open; and, further, may  
43 provide that all business, except the election of such  
44 officers and the determination of such matters as by law  
45 are required to be elected or determined by ballot, shall  
46 be considered after a certain hour, or by adjournment  
47 to another day.

