

HOUSE No. 1194

By Mr. Dearborn of Somerville, petition of Henry W. Minot for legislation relative to the number of signatures required on nomination papers of independent candidates for public office. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON NOMINATION PAPERS OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.

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 six of chapter fifty-three of the General
2 Laws, as amended by chapter one hundred and one
3 of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-six, is
4 hereby further amended by striking out said section
5 and inserting in place thereof the following:—

6 *Section 6.* Nominations of candidates for any offices
7 to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth
8 may be made by nomination papers, stating the facts
9 required by section eight and signed in the aggregate
10 by such number of voters as will equal three per cent
11 of the entire vote cast for governor at the preceding
12 biennial state election. Nominations of all other can-
13 didates for offices to be filled at a state election, and
14 of all candidates for offices to be filled at a city or

15 town election except where city charters or general
16 or special laws provide otherwise, may be made by
17 like nomination papers, signed in the aggregate by
18 such number of voters as will equal three per cent
19 of the entire vote cast for governor at the preceding
20 biennial state election in the electoral district or
21 division for which the officers are to be elected.
22 Nominations of candidates for town offices to be filled
23 at a town election shall in no case be signed by less
24 than twenty voters. At a first election to be held in
25 a newly established ward, the number of voters upon
26 a nomination paper of a candidate who is to be
27 voted for only in such ward need not exceed fifty;
28 and at a first election in a town the number for the
29 nomination of a candidate who is to be voted for
30 only in such town need not exceed twenty.