

HOUSE No. 1602

By Mr. Bowker of Brookline, petition of Philip G. Bowker for the repeal of the law providing for proportional representation and preferential voting in towns. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE PROVISIONS OF LAW PROVIDING FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION AND PREFERENTIAL VOTING IN TOWNS.

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

7 *Section 1.* The following words, as used in this
8 chapter, shall, unless the context otherwise requires,
9 have the following meanings:

10 “Elected at large” shall mean elected by and
11 from all the voters of a city.

12 “Elective body” or “body” shall mean any body,
13 board or commission of any city, whether or not any
14 or all of its members are elected at large, including

15 the school committee and the legislative body of a
16 city, or either branch thereof, but shall not include
17 the city council of the city of Boston.

18 “Elective office” or “office” shall mean any office
19 in any city, other than that of a member of a body
20 as herein defined, the incumbent of which is elected
21 at large.

22 “Elective officer” or “officer” shall mean any
23 officer of any city, not a member of a body as herein
24 defined, who is elected at large.

25 “Proportional representation”, shall mean any pro-
26 portional representation method of election author-
27 ized by this chapter.

28 “Preferential voting” shall mean the preferential
29 voting method of election provided for in this chapter.

1 SECTION 2. Section two of said chapter fifty-four
2 A, as so amended, is hereby further amended by
3 striking out, in the third line, the words “or any
4 town”, — by striking out, in the eighth and ninth
5 lines, the words “or any number then permitted by
6 law in a town”, — by striking out the words “or
7 town” wherever they appear, — and by striking out,
8 at the end of the ninth paragraph, the words “except
9 as otherwise provided by chapter forty-one in the
10 case of a town, for the same terms.”

1 SECTION 3. Sections three, six, seven, eight, nine,
2 ten, eleven, sixteen and seventeen of said chapter
3 fifty-four A, as so amended, are hereby further
4 amended by striking out the words “or town”
5 wherever the same appears.

1 SECTION 4. Section eleven of chapter forty-one
2 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by

3 section three of said chapter three hundred and
4 forty-one, is hereby further amended by striking out,
5 in the sixth, seventh and eighth lines, the words
6 “except a board whose members have been elected
7 by proportional representation under chapter fifty-
8 four A”.

1 SECTION 5. The fourth paragraph of section one
2 hundred and five of chapter fifty-four of the General
3 Laws, as most recently amended by section seven
4 of said chapter three hundred and forty-one, is hereby
5 further amended by striking out, in the first, second
6 and third lines, the words “except at town elections
7 where members of boards or officers are to be elected
8 under the provisions of chapter fifty-four A”.

