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By Mr. Finnegan of Everett, petition of Kevin H. White (Secretary of the Commonwealth) relative to the use of absentee ballots at state primaries. Election Laws.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Four.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS AT STATE  
PRIMARIES.

*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 86 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as most recently  
2 amended by section 1 of chapter 213 of the acts of 1961, is hereby  
3 further amended by striking out said section and inserting in  
4 place thereof the following section:—

5 *Section 86.* Any voter who during the hours that the polling  
6 places are open on the day of the biennial state election or a  
7 state primary preceding a biennial state election is absent from  
8 the city or town where he is a voter by reason of his employ-  
9 ment in another community or for any other reason or who will  
10 be unable by reason of physical disability to cast his vote in  
11 person at the polling place, and whose application for an official  
12 absent voting ballot has been filed with the city or town clerk  
13 as provided in section eighty-nine, or with the state secretary,  
14 and certified under section ninety-one, may vote in accordance  
15 with sections eighty-seven to one hundred and three, inclusive;  
16 provided, that a voter who is in a penal institution under sen-  
17 tence shall not be entitled or permitted to avail himself of the  
18 provisions of this and the seventeen following sections; and  
19 provided, further, that a voter who will be unable by reason of  
20 physical disability to cast his vote in person at the polling place  
21 shall file with the city or town clerk with his application for an  
22 official absent voting ballot a certificate executed by a regis-  
23 tered physician, attending registered nurse, attending licensed

24 practical nurse, superintendent of a hospital or like institution,  
25 a practitioner of the Christian Science Church, or an ordained  
26 minister, priest, or rabbi who is personally acquainted with the  
27 voter and aware of his physical disability, stating that the voter  
28 will be unable by reason of physical disability to cast his vote  
29 in person at the polling place on the day of election.