

HOUSE No. 2927

By Mr. Whitney of Springfield, petition of Frederick M. Whitney, Jr., that provision be made for the use of absentee ballots at state primaries. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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

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

22 city or town clerk with his application for an official absent
 23 voting ballot a certificate executed by a registered physician,
 24 attending registered nurse, attending licensed practical nurse,
 25 superintendent of a hospital or like institution, a practitioner
 26 of the Christian Science Church, or an ordained minister,
 27 priest, or rabbi who is personally acquainted with the voter
 28 and aware of his physical disability, stating that the voter
 29 will be unable by reason of physical disability to cast his vote
 30 in person at the polling place on the day of election.