

By Mr. Ryan of Haverhill (by request), petition of W. J. Harty for legislation to provide for the appointment of un-enrolled voters as extra election officers in non-partisan city and town elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF UN-ENROLLED VOTERS AS EXTRA ELECTION OFFICERS IN NON-PARTISAN CITY AND TOWN ELECTIONS.

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 11 of chapter 54 of the General Laws
2 is hereby amended by adding the following paragraph:—

3 The mayor, shall, in non-partisan municipal elections, in
4 addition to the above appointments, appoint additional elec-
5 tion officers who shall at the time of their appointment be
6 un-enrolled voters in the ward of which such precinct forms
7 a part and such additional appointments shall comprise at
8 least one half in number of the appointments of enrolled
9 voters. Such additional appointments shall be filed with the
10 city clerk and acted on by the aldermen in the same manner
11 as provided for appointment of enrolled voters. The regis-
12 trars may, if they deem it necessary, conduct examinations of
13 such un-enrolled appointees. The provisions of section eleven
14 B shall not otherwise apply to such un-enrolled appointees.

1 SECTION 2. Section 12 of said chapter 54 is hereby further
2 amended by adding the following paragraph:—

3 The selectmen shall, in non-partisan municipal elections,
4 in addition to the above appointments, appoint additional
5 election officers who shall at the time of their appointment
6 be un-enrolled voters of the town and comprise one half in
7 number of the appointments of enrolled voters. The select-
8 men may, if they deem it necessary, conduct examinations
9 of such un-enrolled appointees.

1 SECTION 3. Section 14 of said chapter 54 is hereby further
2 amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in
3 place thereof the following sentence:—If there is a vacancy
4 in the number of the election officers, or if an election officer
5 declines his appointment and gives notice thereof to the
6 city or town clerk within ten days following the date of his
7 appointment, the mayor or the selectmen shall, except as
8 provided in section sixteen, fill the vacancy; and the appoint-
9 ment shall be made to preserve the equal representation of
10 the two leading political parties, except that for the purposes
11 of non-partisan municipal elections the representation shall
12 include un-enrolled voters on an equal footing with each of
13 said parties. Appointments to fill vacancies shall not be sub-
14 ject to confirmation by the aldermen, any provision of gen-
15 eral or special law to the contrary notwithstanding.

1 SECTION 4. Said chapter 54 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 16A and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:—

4 *Section 16A.* In any city or town which accepts this sec-
5 tion, if the warden, clerk or inspector, or the deputy of any
6 such officer, if any, is not present at the opening of the polls,
7 the city or town clerk may appoint a person to fill such va-
8 cancy who shall be an enrolled voter of the same political party
9 as the absent officer, or if the absent officer is an un-enrolled
10 voter the person filling the vacancy shall be an un-enrolled
11 voter, provided that any competent person so classified is
12 present and willing to serve.

1 SECTION 5. Said chapter 54 is hereby further amended
2 by striking out section 17 and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:—

4 *Section 17.* At state elections in cities and towns, and in
5 city elections other than non-partisan municipal elections, the
6 presiding election officer of each voting place or precinct shall
7 detail two inspectors of different political parties to act as
8 ballot clerks, who shall have charge of the ballots and shall
9 furnish them to voters. In non-partisan municipal elections
10 two such inspectors shall be so detailed and one of them shall
11 be an un-enrolled voter.