

By Mr. Bartley of Holyoke, petition of David M. Bartley, Robert Q. Crane (Treasurer and Receiver-General), Robert H. Quinn (Attorney General), Thaddeus Buczko (Auditor) and John F. X. Davoren (Secretary of the Commonwealth) relative to changing the date for the holding of state political conventions. Election Laws.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DATE FOR HOLDING STATE CONVENTIONS.

*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 53 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 striking out section 54, as most recently amended by section 2  
3 of chapter 825 of the acts of 1969, and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following section: —

5 *Section 54.* The chairman of the state committee of a  
6 political party shall issue a call on or before the first Wednes-  
7 day in March to hold a state convention, to be held not earlier  
8 than April fifth and not later than April twentieth, in a year in  
9 which a governor is to be elected, for the purpose of adopting  
10 a platform and endorsing for nomination candidates for offices  
11 to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth, to be voted  
12 for at the ensuing state primary, and for such other purposes  
13 consistent with law as the convention may determine. If said  
14 chairman fails to issue a call on or before the first Wednesday  
15 in March for the holding of such convention, ten voters en-  
16 rolled in the party may petition the superior court to compel  
17 the chairman to issue said call. Such convention shall consist of  
18 delegates chosen by the ward and town committees, and the  
19 state committee members from each senatorial district. The  
20 number of delegates shall be one from each ward and town,  
21 one additional for every one thousand votes or major fraction  
22 thereof cast at the preceding biennial state election, in such

23 ward or town, for the respective party's candidate for governor,  
24 and said state committee members. Each delegate chosen by  
25 the ward and town committees shall be chosen from the  
26 enrolled members of the party resident in the ward or town  
27 from which he is chosen. The chairman of each such ward or  
28 town committee desiring representation at such convention  
29 shall, within fourteen days after a meeting duly called in  
30 writing for the purpose of selecting a delegate or delegates,  
31 notify the respective city committee, in the case of a city, or  
32 the state committee, in the case of a town, but in no case shall  
33 such notice be given later than the third Wednesday in March.  
34 Except as hereinafter provided, no vacancy among the delegates  
35 chosen by the ward and town committees shall be filled. Any  
36 such vacancy caused by death or removal from the common-  
37 wealth may be filled by vote of the ward or town committee  
38 at a meeting duly called for the purpose; provided, that notice  
39 of the filling of such vacancy is given in writing to the chair-  
40 man of the state committee of the appropriate political party  
41 not less than fourteen days prior to the date appointed for the  
42 opening of such convention. Said chairman shall thereupon  
43 issue a proper certificate to any person so chosen. Nothing  
44 herein contained shall affect or diminish the operation of the  
45 laws relating to state primaries contained in sections forty-one  
46 to fifty-three A, inclusive.