

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of Michael Joseph Connolly, John A. Businger, Patricia A. Walrath, Roberta R. Goldman, Eleanor Myerson and another for legislation to make certain technical changes in the election laws. Election Laws.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six.

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AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS IN THE ELECTION LAWS.

*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 105 of chapter 41 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by inserting after the fourth sentence the  
3 following sentence: — Whenever two members are to be elected  
4 to the same term, the election shall be conducted for two distinct  
5 offices, one of which shall be identified in the ballot and on  
6 nomination papers with the title “trustee of soldiers’ memorials  
7 (non-veteran),” and for which only candidates who are not  
8 veterans of any war shall be nominated.

1 SECTION 2. Section 6 of chapter 43A of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting  
3 in place thereof the following sentence: — They shall be submitted  
4 to the registrars of voters and shall be certified in the manner  
5 provided in section seven of said chapter fifty-three; provided, that  
6 any town meeting member, including any town meeting member  
7 in office under the provisions of a special statute under which such  
8 town is operating immediately prior to the taking effect therein  
9 of the standard form of representative town meeting government  
10 provided by this chapter, may become a candidate for election  
11 by giving written notice thereof to the town clerk not later than  
12 twenty-one days prior to the last day and hour for filing nom-  
13 ination papers.

1 SECTION 3. Section 3 of chapter 43B of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the second and third paragraphs  
3 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraphs: —

4 The various sheets constituting a petition need not be filed at the  
5 same time. For the purpose of this section, and of section three  
6 of said Article LXXXIX, such a petition shall be considered filed  
7 whenever the persons responsible for its filing notify the registrars  
8 in writing that the filing is complete. Before receiving such notice,  
9 the registrars may, but shall not be required to, certify signatures  
10 on the sheet of the petition already filed.

11 Objections to the sufficiency and validity of the signatures on  
12 any such petition as certified by the registrars shall be made in  
13 the manner provided by section seven of chapter fifty-five B,  
14 within two working days after the registrars' certification report  
15 under this section.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amend-  
2 ed by striking out the caption preceding section 50 and inserting in  
3 place thereof the following caption: — SUPPLEMENTARY  
4 REGISTRATION OF SPECIALLY QUALIFIED VOTERS.

1 SECTION 5. The first paragraph of section 1 of chapter 52 of  
2 the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out the third  
3 sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: —  
4 Members appointed by the state committee shall hold office for  
5 two years from the date of their appointment; provided, however,  
6 that in no event shall the terms of office of such members extend  
7 beyond the term of office of members who were elected at the  
8 presidential primaries.

1 SECTION 6. Section 22A of chapter 53 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting  
3 in place thereof the following sentence: — Registrars shall receipt  
4 in writing for each initiative or referendum petition submitted to  
5 and received by them, and shall deliver such petitions only on  
6 receiving written receipts therefor or other identification  
7 acceptable to the registrars.

1 SECTION 7. The seventh paragraph of section 34 of said  
2 chapter 53 is hereby amended by striking out the fourth sentence  
3 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: — Against  
4 the name of each such candidate there shall be printed, if the  
5 candidate requests, a statement in not more than eight words  
6 setting forth the public offices which he holds or has held.

1 SECTION 8. Section 44 of said chapter 53 is hereby amended  
2 by striking out in the second sentence the words “and commis-  
3 sioners to apportion Suffolk county”.

1 SECTION 9. The first paragraph of section 45 of said chapter  
2 53 is hereby amended by striking out the third sentence and  
3 inserting in place thereof the following sentence: — The candidate  
4 may state, on one or more nomination papers, in not more than  
5 eight words, the public offices which he holds or has held.

1 SECTION 10. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 34 and inserting in place thereof  
3 the following section: —

4 Section 34. A city or town may, by vote of a majority of the  
5 city council or by vote of a majority of the board of selectmen,  
6 at a meeting held at least one hundred and twenty days before  
7 the primary, preliminary election or election at which voting  
8 machines are to be used, determine upon and purchase, lease, or  
9 lease with an option to purchase, one or more voting machines  
10 approved as provided in section thirty-two, and order the use  
11 thereof at primaries, preliminary elections and elections of state,  
12 city or town officers in such city or town; and thereafter at all  
13 primaries and elections of state, city or town officers in that city  
14 or town, until otherwise ordered by the city council in a city and  
15 the selectmen in a town, said machines shall be used at primaries  
16 and preliminary elections and for voting for the officers to be  
17 elected at such elections and for taking the vote upon questions  
18 submitted to the voters. Notice of such determination to use voting  
19 machines, or to discontinue the use thereof, shall be sent to the  
20 state secretary by the city or town clerk within five days after such  
21 determination, provided, however, that no such discontinuance  
22 shall take place later than ninety days prior to a state or

23 presidential primary or state election, nor later than thirty days  
24 prior to a city or town primary, preliminary election or election  
25 at which it is to become effective.

26 A city or town may, by vote of a majority of the city council  
27 or by vote of a majority of the board of selectmen, at a meeting  
28 held not later than one hundred and twenty days prior to a state  
29 or presidential primary or state election, and not later than sixty  
30 days prior to a municipal primary, preliminary election or election  
31 at which an electronic voting system is first to be used, determine  
32 upon the use of, and may lease, purchase, or lease with an option  
33 to purchase, the marking units or automatic tabulating equipment  
34 necessary to any electronic voting system approved for use in the  
35 commonwealth in accordance with section thirty-two. Thereafter,  
36 at all primaries, preliminary elections and elections held in said city  
37 or town, until otherwise ordered by vote of the city council in a  
38 city or of the selectmen in a town, said electronic voting system  
39 shall be used in those polling places designated by the city council  
40 or board of selectmen.

41 Notice of determination to use an approved electronic voting  
42 system, or to discontinue its use, shall be sent to the state secretary  
43 by the city or town clerk within five days after such determination;  
44 provided, however, that no such discontinuance shall take place  
45 later than ninety days prior to a state or presidential primary or  
46 state election, nor later than thirty days prior to a city or town  
47 primary, preliminary election or election at which it is to become  
48 effective; provided, further, that no such discontinuance shall  
49 prevent the state secretary from selecting appropriate voting  
50 machines and vote tally systems pursuant to section thirty-two.

1 SECTION 11. Section 35A of said chapter 54 is hereby  
2 amended by striking out the fourth sentence.

1 SECTION 12. Subsection (a) of section 87 of said chapter 54  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the words "referred to in  
3 subsection (e)".

1 SECTION 13. Section 89 of said chapter 54, as appearing in  
2 section 3 of chapter 562 of the acts of 1985, is hereby amended  
3 by striking out the first and second sentence and inserting in place

4 thereof the following sentence: — The official absent voting ballot  
5 and all other papers described in section eighty-seven shall be  
6 delivered as follows:.

1 SECTION 14. Subsection (b) of section 92 of said chapter 54  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and insert-  
3 ing in place thereof the following sentence: — He shall then exe-  
4 cute before said official the necessary affidavit on said envelope.

1 SECTION 15. Section 95 of said chapter 54 is hereby amended  
2 by striking out the words “of section one hundred and three O”,  
3 inserted by section 34 of chapter 477 of the acts of 1985.

1 SECTION 16. Section 100 of said chapter 54 is hereby  
2 amended by inserting after the fifth sentence the following  
3 sentence: — The city or town clerk shall by telephone authorize  
4 the presiding officer to issue such certificate if said clerk  
5 determines that a voter at the polling place is entitled to it, and  
6 said presiding officer shall then similarly sign and issue such  
7 certificate.

1 SECTION 17. Said chapter 54 is hereby further amended by  
2 striking out the caption preceding section 103B and inserting in  
3 place thereof the following caption: —ABSENT VOTING FOR  
4 SPECIALLY QUALIFIED VOTERS.

1 SECTION 18. Section 103F of said chapter 54 is hereby  
2 amended by striking out the words “federal service personnel” and  
3 the words “such personnel”, and inserting in place thereof, in each  
4 instance, the words “specially qualified voters”.

1 SECTION 19. Section 103L of said chapter 54, is hereby  
2 amended by striking out in the last sentence the words “, and shall  
3 furnish said secretary with mailing lists of such residents before  
4 each biennial state election”.

1 SECTION 20. Subsection (c) of section 103O of said chapter 54  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the words “federal service  
3 personnel” and inserting in place thereof the words “specially  
4 qualified voters”.

1 SECTION 21. The second paragraph of section 105A of said  
2 chapter 54 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence.

1 SECTION 22. The third paragraph of said section 105A is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the words "absentee ballots and".

1 SECTION 23. Section 107 of said chapter 54 is hereby  
2 amended by striking out in the first sentence the words ", other  
3 than paper,".



The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem. It is shown that the problem is well-posed in the sense of Hadamard. The second part is devoted to the construction of the solution. The third part is devoted to the numerical solution of the problem. The fourth part is devoted to the application of the results to the theory of the Earth's magnetism. The fifth part is devoted to the conclusion.