

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of John A. Businger, Theodore J. Aleixo, Jr., Robert A. Durand, Kevin G. Honan, Joseph K. Mackey and Byron Rushing relative to voter registration of persons temporarily absent from their place of residence. Election Laws.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE VOTER REGISTRATION OF PERSONS TEMPORARILY ABSENT FROM THEIR PLACE OF RESIDENCE.

*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 36 of chapter 51 of the General Laws,  
2 as appearing in the 1984 Official Edition, is hereby amended by  
3 striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following paragraph: —

5 The registrars shall prepare in sufficient quantity blank forms  
6 for affidavits of registration which shall be in substantially the  
7 following form:

8 AFFIDAVIT OF REGISTRATION  
9 (PLEASE PRINT)

10 NAME (LAST NAME FIRST)

11 RESIDENCE (ADDRESS)

12 CITY OR TOWN

13 RESIDENCE JANUARY 1, (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)

14 LAST PREVIOUS RESIDENCE IN ANOTHER CITY OR  
15 TOWN, IF ANY:

16 (Street Address) \_\_\_\_\_

17 (City or Town) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

18 NAME YOU USED AT THIS RESIDENCE  
19 (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE):

20 DATE OF BIRTH PLACE OF BIRTH U.S. CITIZENSHIP

21 \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ NATURALIZED \_\_\_\_\_

22 OCCUPATION

23 DO YOU WISH TO ENROLL IN A POLITICAL PARTY?

24 DEMOCRATIC  REPUBLICAN

25 PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

26 I hereby swear (affirm) that I am the person named above, that  
27 the above information is true, that I am a citizen of the United  
28 States, that I am not a person under guardianship, that I am not  
29 temporarily or permanently disqualified by law from voting  
30 because of corrupt practices in respect to elections, and that I  
31 consider this residence to be my home.

32 Signed under the pains  
33 and penalties of perjury.

34 CERTIFICATION BY REGISTRAR

35 TITLE

36 DATE

1 SECTION 2. Section 42 of said chapter 51, as so appearing,  
2 is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence and  
3 inserting in place thereof the following sentence: — Except as  
4 provided in sections forty-two A and forty-two E, every person  
5 whose name has not been entered in the annual register in  
6 accordance with sections thirty-four to thirty-seven, inclusive, or  
7 a corresponding provision of law applicable to a city or town  
8 having a listing board, must, in order to register as a voter, appear  
9 in person and make an affidavit of registration before a registrar  
10 or assistant registrar.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by  
2 inserting after section 42D the following section: —

3 *Section 42E.* (a) Any person who is included in the definition  
4 of “Federal service personnel”, as set forth in section one hundred  
5 three B of chapter fifty-four, and who has the qualifications for  
6 voting prescribed by the Constitution of the Commonwealth, who  
7 by reason of temporary absence from his residence from the time  
8 he makes application under this section until after the last day  
9 for registration prescribed by section twenty-six before a primary,  
10 preliminary election, election, or caucus, may, by so stating in any  
11 written form of communication to the registrars of voters of the  
12 city or town in which the right of such resident to vote may be  
13 claimed, receive a blank form for his affidavit of registration, as  
14 prescribed in section thirty-six. The registrars shall, upon receipt  
15 of such application, transmit to the applicant such form.

16 (b) Upon receipt of said completed and signed affidavit, the  
17 registrars shall certify that they have received it, and shall date  
18 the affidavit which shall be the date of registration. In order for  
19 the registration to be valid for the next primary, preliminary  
20 election, election, or caucus, the affidavit shall be received by the  
21 registrars on or before the last day for registration before such  
22 primary, preliminary election, election, or caucus, as prescribed  
23 in section twenty-six. If the affidavit is received after such day,  
24 the registration shall be valid following such primary, preliminary  
25 election, election or caucus, and the voter shall be so notified.

26 (c) The provisions of section one hundred and three K of  
27 chapter fifty-four, and of sections two, six, seven, eight, and nine  
28 of chapter fifty-six, relative to penalties for offenses concerning

29 the registration of voters, shall, so far as pertinent, apply to  
30 persons registering to vote under this section.

1 SECTION 4. Section 44 of said chapter 51, as so appearing,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following sentence: — The  
3 provisions of this section relative to the witnessing and  
4 certification of affidavits of registration shall not apply to  
5 affidavits made as provided in section forty-two E.