

By Mr. Carney of Boston, petition of John F. X. Davoren and others for legislation to amend the law relative to petitions for recounts of votes. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING THE LAW RELATIVE TO PETITIONS FOR
RECOUNTS OF VOTES.

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 135 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following
3 paragraph:—

4 Except as hereinafter provided with respect to state-wide re-
5 counts in cases of offices to be filled or questions to be voted
6 upon at a state election by all the voters of the commonwealth,
7 any petition for a recount shall be void if the difference in the
8 number of votes cast for the two leading candidates for any
9 office for which, or to which, only one person may be nominated
10 or elected, or in the number of affirmative and negative votes on
11 a question, as determined by the official, or officials, or board
12 authorized to determine the results of all the votes cast for such
13 office or on such question, or, in the case of any office for which,
14 or to which, two or more persons may be nominated or elected,
15 the difference between the number of votes cast for the candi-
16 date receiving the smallest numbers of votes and appearing to
17 have been nominated or elected and the number of votes re-
18 ceived by any other candidate for such office and appearing not
19 to have been nominated therefor or elected thereto, as so de-
20 termined, is ten per cent or more of the total vote for such office,
21 or on such question and the total vote thereof or thereon is one
22 thousand or less; or five per cent or more of the total vote and
23 the total vote is more than one thousand and not more than five

24 thousand; or four per cent or more of the total vote and the
25 total vote is more than five thousand and not more than ten
26 thousand; or three per cent or more of the total vote and the
27 total vote is more than ten thousand and not more than fifty
28 thousand; or one and one-half per cent or more of the total
29 vote and the total vote is more than fifty thousand and not
30 more than one hundred thousand; or one per cent or more of
31 the total vote and the total vote is more than one hundred
32 thousand.