

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 2282

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By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of the Massachusetts Chapter, Americans for Democratic Action, Mario Umana, Allan McGuane, John A. Businger, Thomas G. Simons, Ronald C. MacKenzie and Edward L. Burke for legislation to provide for the use of street listings as a means of accomplishing at home registration for voting. Election Laws.

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## **The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

### **AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF THE STREET LISTINGS AS A MEANS FOR ACCOMPLISHING AT HOME REGISTRATION.**

*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. The title of sections 4 through 14B inclusive of  
2 chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby stricken and the  
3 following is inserted: - Listings of persons seventeen years or  
4 over.

1 SECTION 2. Section 4 of chapter 51 of the General Laws as  
2 most recently amended by section 4 of chapter 160 of the acts  
3 of nineteen hundred and sixty-three is hereby amended by  
4 striking the entire section and inserting in place thereof the  
5 following section: -

6 *Section 4.* Except as otherwise provided by law, the reg-  
7 istrars, assistant registrars, temporary assistant registrars, or one  
8 or more of them, shall annually, beginning in January visit a  
9 resident of every single family dwelling, a resident of every unit  
10 of multi-unit dwelling and all inns or lodging houses listed in  
11 accordance with section ten A in their respective cities and  
12 towns, and after diligent inquiry, shall make true lists contain-  
13 ing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name, age or date of

14 birth, occupation, nationality if not a citizen of the United  
15 States and residence on January first of the preceding year and  
16 of the current year, length of time residing at present address  
17 and voter registration status, which includes whether registered  
18 and, if so, where, of every person seventeen years of age or  
19 older residing in their respective cities and towns. All present  
20 unregistered voters shall be examined and, if qualified as pro-  
21 vided in section one, shall be registered to vote in accordance  
22 with section forty-two.

23 At each residence visited a card shall be left which states  
24 when and where voter registration sessions are held, what the  
25 qualifications for voters are, and what information and docu-  
26 ments must be furnished when registering to vote.

27 Any veteran in the soldier's home in Chelsea shall have the  
28 same right as any other resident of the city to vote therein.

29 Section 7 of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
30 section 1 of chapter 205 of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
31 sixty-nine is hereby amended by inserting after the word  
32 "year" at the end of the first sentence the words: — and length  
33 of time residing at present address.

34 Section 14 of said chapter 51 is hereby amended by striking  
35 the word "twenty-one" and inserting in place thereof the  
36 word: — eighteen.

37 Section 14A of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
38 section 11 of chapter 440 of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
39 thirty-eight is hereby repealed.

40 Section 14B of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
41 section 16 of chapter 453 of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
42 forty-three is hereby amended by striking the first sentence.

43 Section 22 of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
44 chapter 172 of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty is hereby  
45 amended by striking from the first sentence the words "twenty  
46 years of age or over" and inserting in place thereof the words:  
47 — seventeen years of age or over and to carry on at home  
48 registration. They shall equally represent the different political  
49 parties and shall, in the performance of the duties, have all the  
50 powers, and be subject to all the obligations and penalties of  
51 registrars of voters, but their doings shall be under the direc-  
52 tion and subject to the revision and acceptance of the registrars  
53 of voters.

54 Section 23 of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
55 section 3 of chapter 715 of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
56 forty-five is hereby amended by inserting after the words  
57 "assistant registrars" where these words appear in the first and  
58 second sentences the words: — temporary assistant registrars.

59 Section 25 of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
60 chapter 286 of the acts of nineteen hundred and sixty-one is  
61 hereby amended by inserting after the last sentence the fol-  
62 lowing: — temporary assistant registrars shall be appointed sub-  
63 ject to the same provisions except that they shall be voters of  
64 the ward or town for which they are appointed.

65 Section 39 of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
66 section 15 of chapter 440 of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
67 thirty-eight is hereby amended by striking the word "twenty"  
68 in the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the word: -  
69 seventeen.

70 Section 42 of said chapter 51 as most recently amended by  
71 section 18 of chapter 437 of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
72 sixty-two is hereby amended by striking the first paragraph and  
73 inserting the following two paragraphs in place thereof: —

74 *Section 42.* At home registration shall be carried on in  
75 conjunction with the street listing provided for in sections four  
76 through fourteen B inclusive of chapter fifty-one of the  
77 General Laws. Any person who is present and not registered to  
78 vote shall be asked whether he desires to so register, and, if he  
79 does so desire, he shall prove his qualification in accordance  
80 with sections one and one A of said chapter fifty-one and, if  
81 qualified, shall be registered in accordance with sections forty-  
82 two A through forty-seven inclusive of said chapter.

83 Except as already provided in this section or as provided by  
84 section forty-two A every person whose name has not been  
85 entered in the annual register in accordance with sections  
86 thirty-four, thirty-five or thirty-seven or a corresponding pro-  
87 vision of law applicable to a city or town having a listing  
88 board, must, in order to be registered, or to qualify under  
89 section one A for voting for electors of president and vice-  
90 president, as the case may be, apply in person to the registrars  
91 and prove that he is qualified.

92 The third paragraph of said section is hereby amended by

93 inserting after the words “assistant registrars” in the first and  
94 third sentences the words: — temporary assistant registrars.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1 of chapter 56 of the General Laws as  
2 most recently amended by section 11 of chapter 537 of the  
3 acts of nineteen hundred and forty-six is hereby amended by  
4 inserting after the words “assistant registrars” the words: —  
5 temporary assistant registrars.

6 Section 2 of said chapter 56 is hereby amended by striking  
7 the words “registrars or assistant registrars” and inserting in  
8 place thereof the words: — registrars, assistant registrars or tem-  
9 porary assistant registrars.

10 Section 3 of said chapter 56 is hereby amended by inserting  
11 after the words “assistant registrars” the words: — temporary  
12 assistant registrars.

13 Section 4 of said chapter 56 is hereby amended by inserting  
14 after the words “registrars, assistant registrars” the words: —  
15 temporary assistant registrars. Said section 4 is hereby further  
16 amended by striking the word “twenty” and inserting in place  
17 thereof the word: — seventeen.

18 Section 5 of said chapter 56 is hereby amended by inserting  
19 after the words “assistant registrars” the words: — temporary  
20 assistant registrars. Said section 5 is hereby further amended by  
21 striking the word “twenty” and inserting in place thereof the  
22 word: — seventeen.

23 Section 8 of said chapter 56 is hereby amended by striking  
24 the words “registrars or assistant registrars” and inserting in  
25 place thereof the words: — registrars, assistant registrars or tem-  
26 porary assistant registrars.

27 Section 9 of said chapter 56 is hereby amended by striking  
28 the words “registrars or assistant registrars” and inserting in  
29 place thereof the words: — registrars, assistant registrars or tem-  
30 porary assistant registrars.