

HOUSE No. 5335

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 21, 1991.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3391) of Michael J. Connolly, John A. Businger, Kevin G. Honan and another relative to certain technical changes in the election laws, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5335) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JOSEPH B. McINTYRE.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO 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 2 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, as
2 amended by section 5 of chapter 526 of the acts of 1990, is hereby
3 further amended by striking out in the last sentence the words
4 “thirty days prior to the annual town meeting, it shall not take
5 effect until the succeeding annual town meeting” and inserting in
6 place thereof the words: — sixty days before the annual town
7 election, it shall not take effect until the next annual town election.

1 SECTION 2. The first paragraph of section 42A of chapter 51
2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition,
3 is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence.

1 SECTION 3. The second paragraph of said section 42A is
2 hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting
3 in place thereof the following sentence: — The application shall
4 be made, not later than the third day before the last day for
5 registration of voters under section twenty-six, to the registrars
6 of voters of the city or town in which the applicant resides.

1 SECTION 4. Section 8 of chapter 52 of the General Laws, as
2 so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out in line 2 the word
3 “governor” and inserting in place thereof the words: — any office
4 to be filled by all the voters of the commonwealth.

1 SECTION 5. Section 18A of chapter 53 of the General Laws,
2 as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out in line 8 the
3 word “thirtieth” and inserting in place thereof the word: — thirty-
4 fifth.

1 SECTION 6. Said section 18A is hereby further amended by
2 striking out in line 26 the word “thirty” and inserting in place
3 thereof the word: — thirty-five.

1 SECTION 7. Section 34A of said chapter 53, as so appearing,
2 is hereby amended by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in
3 place thereof the following subsection: —

4 (c) Envelopes conforming substantially to subsections (c)
5 and (d) of section eighty-seven of said chapter fifty-four.

1 SECTION 8. Said chapter 53 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 38A and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section: —

4 Section 38A. The board of registrars of voters of every city or
5 town shall submit to the state secretary a count for each precinct
6 of the number of voters enrolled in each political party or political
7 designation and the number of unenrolled voters. The count shall
8 be correct as of the last day to register voters under section twenty-
9 six of chapter fifty-one before every regular state and presidential
10 primary and biennial state election, and in an even-numbered year
11 in which no presidential primary is held, also as of February first.
12 The secretary shall receive the count in writing not later than ten
13 days after each such date, and shall issue a report thereof.

1 SECTION 9. The last sentence of section 47 of said chapter 53,
2 added by section 12 of chapter 269 of the acts of 1990, is hereby
3 amended by striking out the word “signations” and inserting in
4 place thereof the word: — signatures.

1 SECTION 10. Section 24 of chapter 54 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out in line 38 the words “registered voter” and inserting
4 in place thereof the words: — residence of one or more registered
5 voters.

1 SECTION 11. The fifth paragraph of section 41 of said chap-
2 ter 54, as appearing in section 28 of chapter 526 of the acts of 1990,
3 is hereby amended by inserting after the word “three” the
4 words: — of chapter fifty-three.

1 SECTION 12. The last paragraph of section 42 of said chap-
2 ter 54, as most recently amended by section 130 of chapter 177
3 of the acts of 1990, is hereby further amended by inserting in the
4 second sentence after the words "name of the" the words: —
5 electoral district, .

1 SECTION 13. Sections fifty-five through fifty-eight, inclusive,
2 of said chapter fifty-four are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 14. Section 58A of said chapter 54, as appearing in
2 the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding the
3 following paragraph: —

4 The provisions of this section, including the provision for a fair,
5 concise summary determined by the city solicitor or town counsel,
6 shall also apply whenever any special act is submitted for
7 acceptance to the voters of a city or town, except to the extent
8 that the special act expressly provides otherwise.

1 SECTION 15. Said chapter 54 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 93 and inserting in place thereof the following
3 section: —

4 Section 93. All absent voting ballots voted as provided in sec-
5 tion ninety-two shall be received by the city or town clerk before
6 the hour fixed for closing the polls.

1 SECTION 16. The second paragraph of section 95 of said
2 chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out
3 in line 41 the words "voters after" and inserting in place thereof
4 the words: — voters. The registrars may hold this meeting as soon
5 as they have received all absent voting ballots mailed to such
6 voters outside the United States, but shall hold it in any event
7 after.

1 SECTION 17. Chapter 286 of the acts of 1990 is hereby
2 amended by striking out in the last sentence the word "no" and
3 inserting in place thereof the word: — not.