

By Mr. Robinson of Melrose, petition of William G. Robinson, Iris K. Holland, John C. Bradford, Jonathan L. Healy, Andrew S. Natsios and Royall H. Switzler relative to the order of names of candidates listed on election ballots. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO BALLOTS.

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 40 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by section 756 of the acts of 1977 is hereby
3 further amended by inserting after the second paragraph the follow-
4 ing new paragraph: —

5 Under the designation of the appropriate office, the order of the
6 names of candidates to be listed on paper ballots or voting ma-
7 chines shall be determined by lot at such time and in such manner as
8 shall be determined by the state secretary in the instance of state
9 elections and by the city or town clerk in the instance of municipal
10 elections.

1 SECTION 2. Section 41A of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by section 4 of chapter 400 of the acts of
3 1972, is hereby further amended by striking the fourth and fifth
4 sentences and inserting in place thereof the following: — The order
5 of the various groups on the ballot shall be determined by lot
6 conducted at such time and in such manner as shall be determined
7 by the state secretary.

1 SECTION 3. Section 42 of chapter 54 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking the first paragraph, as most recently
3 amended by chapter 869 of the acts of 1970 and inserting in place
4 thereof the following new paragraph:

5 Except as provided in section 41A, under the designation of the

6 office, the order of the names of candidates any office to be filled at
7 a state election shall be determined by lot conducted at such time
8 and in such manner as shall be determined by the state secretary.

1 SECTION 4. The second paragraph of section 42 of chapter 54
2 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 3, of
3 chapter 190 of the acts of 1979, is hereby further amended by
4 striking the first and second sentences and inserting in place thereof
5 the following: — Under the designation of the office, the order of
6 the names of candidates for offices to be filled at municipal elec-
7 tions shall be determined by lot conducted at such time and in such
8 manner as shall be determined by the clerk of the city or town in
9 which the election is to be held.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter 54 is hereby amended by striking section
2 43, as most recently amended by section 1 of chapter 135 of the acts
3 of 1932, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —
4 The names of the candidates for presidential electors shall not be
5 printed on the ballot, but in lieu thereof the surnames of the candi-
6 dates of each party for president and vice president shall be printed
7 thereon in one line under the designation “Electors of president and
8 vice president.” The order of said names shall be determined by lot
9 conducted at such time and in such manner as the state secretary
10 shall determine. The political designation of the party shall be
11 placed at the right of and in the same line with surnames. A
12 sufficient square in which each voter may designate by a cross (X)
13 his choice for electors shall be left at the right of each political
14 designation.