

HOUSE No. 3474

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of John A. Businger for legislation to clarify the right of women who have chosen to retain their own name at marriage to register to vote in that name and regulating the voter registration of persons whose names have changed. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT CLARIFYING THE RIGHT OF WOMEN WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO RETAIN THEIR OWN NAME AT MARRIAGE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THAT NAME AND REGULATING THE VOTER REGISTRATION OF PERSONS WHOSE NAMES HAVE CHANGED.

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 most recently amended by chapter 1137 of the acts of 1973, is
3 hereby further amended by adding to the final paragraph the
4 following sentence: — A person who has chosen to retain his or
5 her own surname at marriage shall enter that surname on the
6 affidavit of registration.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 2, as most recently amended by
3 chapter 666 of the acts of 1966, and inserting in place thereof the
4 following section: —

5 *Section 2.* A person who is duly registered as a voter and who
6 adopts a new name by decree of court or as a result of marriage
7 shall continue to be registered and may vote in his or her former
8 name until June first of the following year; provided, however, if
9 such a person appears in person prior to the close of registration
10 for any election or primary to notify them of such adoption of a
11 new name, the registrars shall correct the current annual register
12 so that such person shall be registered and may vote in his or her
13 new name.

14 If a person does not adopt a new name as a result of marriage,
15 the registrars shall make no change in the name of such person
16 entered in the current annual register.