

HOUSE No. 751.

[Bill accompanying the petition of the mayor of the city of Boston.
Election Laws.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-eight.

AN ACT

Relative to Caucuses in the City of Boston.

*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. All political parties entitled by
2 law to make in caucuses held in the city of Bos-
3 ton, nominations for any office to be filled by
4 election in said city, or to choose in such caucuses
5 delegates to political conventions authorized to
6 make nominations, shall do so only as described
7 in the following sections.

1 SECTION 2. The board of election commission-
2 ers of said city shall fix a date for the holding in
3 each precinct of one caucus for all such political

4 parties prior to the state election, for the nomina-
5 tion of officers to be voted for at such election and
6 the choosing of delegates to political conventions
7 to nominate such officers, and of another caucus
8 for all such parties prior to the municipal election,
9 for the nomination of officers to be voted for at
10 such election and the choosing of such delegates,
11 and every voter affiliated with any such political
12 party and entitled by law to vote at a caucus held
13 by that party in a precinct, and no others, shall
14 have the right to vote at the caucuses in that pre-
15 cinct herein provided for.

1 SECTION 3. Said board shall appoint the elec-
2 tion officers who are to act at said elections in
3 sufficient season to enable them also to act as the
4 officers at such caucuses, and such election officers
5 shall so act and shall be paid for their services at
6 such caucuses in the same manner and at the
7 same rate as they are paid for their services at
8 such elections.

1 SECTION 4. The voting at said caucuses shall
2 be in the same manner as at elections, and caucus
3 ballots for use thereat shall be prepared by said
4 board of election commissioners in the same man-
5 ner as now provided by law; the polls shall be
6 open at such caucuses during the same hours as
7 meetings for elections are required by law to be
8 kept open, and such caucuses shall be conducted
9 in all respects in the same manner as elec-
10 tions, so far as the laws relating to elections are

11 applicable thereto, except as otherwise herein
12 provided.

1 SECTION 5. After the name of a voter at any
2 such caucus has been checked upon the voting
3 list and he has been admitted within the guard
4 rail he shall, before receiving a ballot, declare his
5 party affiliation and shall then be given the ballot
6 of the party with which he declares himself affili-
7 ated: *provided, however*, that such voter shall be
8 subject to challenge after making such declara-
9 tion, and in case he is challenged, shall not be
10 given such ballot unless he shall make oath or
11 affirmation of his affiliation with such party as
12 now provided by law in case of the challenge
13 of votes in caucuses.

1 SECTION 6. The ballots cast at such caucuses
2 shall be received, sorted, counted, declared and
3 transmitted to the board of election commis-
4 sioners and recounted as in the case of ballots
5 cast at elections. Before such ballots are counted,
6 the ballots of each political party shall be sepa-
7 rated and put and kept together in blocks of fifty
8 and the ballots for each party shall be separately
9 counted, tabulated and kept as aforesaid and re-
10 turned.

1 SECTION 7. All laws relating to elections, the
2 preparation of ballots therefore and determining
3 the results thereof, shall, so far as applicable,
4 apply to caucuses held under this act, and said

5 board of election commissioners may make any
6 reasonable rules and regulations not inconsistent
7 with the provisions of law for carrying into effect
8 the provisions of this act.

1 SECTION 8. The city council of said city may
2 provide by ordinance that nominations for all
3 municipal offices in said city shall be made by
4 direct vote of the voters of the several political
5 parties in the caucuses herein provided for, in-
6 stead of by delegates to political conventions.

1 SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.