

HOUSE No. 1112.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 23, 1898.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the Bill (introduced on leave) relative to voting in caucuses (House, No. 559), report that the same ought to pass in a new draft herewith submitted.

For the Committee,

CHARLES R. SAUNDERS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

Relative to Voting in Caucuses.

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 seven of chapter four hundred and eighty-
2 nine of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and
3 ninety-five, as amended by section eleven of chapter five
4 hundred and thirty of the acts of the year eighteen hun-
5 dred and ninety-seven, is hereby amended by striking
6 out the words "in the same calendar year" in the ninth
7 line, and inserting in place thereof the words "within
8 twelve months next ensuing," so as to read as follows:—
9 *Section 7.* All notices for holding caucuses shall
10 apply to all members of the political party whose cau-
11 cuses are to be held, and to them only. No person
12 having voted in the caucus of one political party shall be
13 entitled to vote or take part in the caucus of another
14 political party within twelve months next ensuing. Each
15 town or city committee may make reasonable regulations,
16 not inconsistent with the provisions of law, to determine
17 membership in the party, and to restrain others than

18 those who are entitled to vote at the caucus from attend-
19 ance thereat or taking part therein. But no political
20 committee of any party shall deprive any voter from
21 taking part in a caucus of said party on the ground that
22 the voter had supported an independant candidate for
23 political office : *provided, however,* that no political com-
24 mittee or chairman, warden or caucus officers shall de-
25 prive any registered voter from voting or taking part in
26 any caucus if such voter will take the following oath
27 which shall be administered to him by the presiding
28 officer of the caucus on the request of said voter, and the
29 presiding officer of any caucus is hereby authorized and
30 empowered to administer such oath : You do solemnly
31 swear (or affirm) that you are a registered voter in this
32 ward or town and have the legal right to vote in this
33 caucus, that you are a member of the political party
34 holding the same, and intend to support its candidates
35 at the polls at the election next ensuing, and that you
36 have not taken part or voted in the caucus of any other
37 political party for twelve months last past. So help your
38 God (or this you do under the pains and penalties of
39 perjury). Such voter shall nevertheless be subject to
40 challenge the same as any other voter.

