

HOUSE No. 468.

[Bill accompanying the petition of Frederick W. Clark. Election Laws.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

Relative to Political Parties polling One Thousand
Votes or more for Governor.

*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 of chapter five hundred and forty-
2 eight of the acts of eighteen hundred and ninety-
3 eight is hereby amended by striking out in the
4 forty-third and forty-fourth lines thereof the
5 words "three per centum of the entire vote cast
6 in the Commonwealth for that office," and insert-
7 ing in lieu thereof the words "one thousand
8 votes," so as to read as follows: —

9 *Section 1.* Terms used in this act and in
10 statutes relating to elections shall, unless other
11 meaning is clearly apparent from the language or

12 context, or unless they are inconsistent with the
13 manifest intent of the legislature, be construed as
14 follows: —

15 “Assessors” shall mean the assessors of taxes
16 of a city or town.

17 “Caucus” shall apply to any public meeting of
18 the voters of a ward of a city or of a town, or of
19 a representative district held under this act for
20 the nomination of a candidate for election, for the
21 selection of delegates to a political convention, or
22 for the appointment of a political committee.

23 “Caucus officers” shall apply to chairmen,
24 wardens, secretaries, clerks and inspectors; and,
25 when on duty, to additional officers specially
26 elected or elected to fill a vacancy, and taking
27 part in the conduct of caucuses.

28 “City election” shall apply to any election
29 held in a city for the choice of a city officer by
30 the voters, whether for a full term or for the fill-
31 ing of a vacancy.

32 “City officer” shall apply to any person to be
33 chosen by the voters at a city election.

34 “Election” shall apply to the taking of a vote
35 upon a proposed amendment to the constitution,
36 upon the question of granting licenses for the
37 sale of intoxicating liquors, and upon any other
38 question by law submitted to the voters.

39 “Election officers” shall apply to wardens,
40 clerks, inspectors and ballot clerks, and to their
41 deputies when on duty; and also to selectmen,
42 town clerks, moderators and tellers when taking
43 part in the conduct of elections.

44 “Elective office” shall apply to any office to
45 be filled by the voters at any state, city or town
46 election.

47 “Official ballot” shall mean a ballot prepared
48 for any election or caucus by public authority
49 and at public expense.

50 “Political committee” shall apply only to a
51 committee elected in pursuance of this act.

52 “Political convention” shall apply only to such
53 a convention called and held in pursuance of
54 this act.

55 “Political party” shall apply to a party which
56 at the preceding annual state election polled for
57 governor at least one thousand votes.

58 “Polling place” shall apply to a room or place
59 provided by a city or town for an election or
60 caucus.

61 “Presiding officer” shall apply to the warden
62 or chairman at a caucus, to the warden, chairman
63 of the selectmen, moderator or town clerk in
64 charge of a polling place at an election, or to a
65 justice of the peace acting as moderator at a
66 town meeting; or in the absence of any such
67 officer, to the deputy warden or the clerk or
68 senior inspector or senior selectman present who
69 shall have charge of a polling place.

70 “Registrars” shall mean the board of regis-
71 trars of voters of a city or town or the board of
72 election commissioners of the city of Boston
73 when applicable.

74 “State election” shall apply to any election
75 held for the choice of a national, state, district or

76 county officer by the voters, whether for a full
77 term, or for the filling of a vacancy.

78 "State officer" shall apply to any person to be
79 chosen at a state election.

80 "Town election" shall apply to any meeting
81 held for the election of town officers by the
82 voters, whether for a full term or for the filling of
83 a vacancy.

84 "Town elections or meetings at which official
85 ballots are used" shall be construed to mean
86 town elections or meetings in towns to which sec-
87 tion three hundred and sixty applies.

88 "Town officer" shall apply to any person to be
89 chosen at a town meeting.

90 "Two leading political parties" shall apply to
91 the political parties which cast the highest and
92 next highest number of votes for governor at the
93 preceding annual state election.