

By Mrs. Parente of Milford, petition of Marie J. Parente relative to the changing of party enrollments. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CHANGING OF PARTY ENROLLMENT.

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 38 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as most recently
2 amended by section 3 of chapter 745 of the acts of 1979, is hereby
3 further amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in
4 place thereof the following paragraph: —

5 No voter enrolled under this section or section thirty-seven shall
6 be allowed to receive the ballot of any political party except that
7 with which he is so enrolled; but, except as otherwise provided by
8 said section thirty-seven, a voter may, except within a period
9 beginning at ten o'clock in the evening of the twenty-eighth day
10 prior to a state or presidential primary or the twentieth day prior to
11 a special state primary or city or town primary and ending with the
12 day of such primary, establish, change or cancel his enrollment by
13 appearing in person before a member of said board and requesting
14 in writing that his enrollment be established, changed or cancelled.
15 The processing of an absentee ballot to be used at a primary shall
16 also be deemed to establish the enrollment of a voter in a political
17 party, effective as of the date of said processing. Except as
18 otherwise provided in section twelve of chapter four, sections one
19 and two of chapter fifty-two, sections twenty-six, forty A and
20 forty-eight of this chapter, such enrollment, change or cancellation
21 shall take effect forthwith following such appearance; provided,
22 however, that no such enrollment, change or cancellation shall
23 take effect for a state or presidential primary during the twenty-
24 eight days prior to that primary or for a special state primary or city

25 or town primary during the twenty days prior to that primary. No
26 voter enrolled as a member of one political party shall be allowed
27 to receive the ballot of any other political party, upon a claim by
28 him of erroneous enrollment, except upon a certificate of such
29 error from the registrars, which shall be presented to the presiding
30 officer of the primary and shall be attached to, and considered a
31 part of the voting list and returned and preserved therewith; but the
32 political party enrollment of a voter shall not preclude him from
33 receiving at a city or town primary the ballot of any municipal
34 party, though in no one primary shall he receive more than one
35 party ballot.