

SENATE. No. 1685

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, May 4, 1994.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 308) of Michael J. Connolly, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Stanley C. Rosenberg and Richard T. Moore for legislation to establish confidential voter registration, reports the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1685).

For the committee,

STANLEY C. ROSENBERG.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Four.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL VOTER REGISTRATION.

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 four of chapter fifty-one of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the 1992 Official Edition is hereby amended
3 by inserting after the third sentence the following sentence:— The
4 name and address of any person who provides the registrars with a
5 copy of a court order granting protection, or evidence of residence in
6 a protective shelter shall not appear on the street list and such names
7 shall not be disclosed to any person.

1 SECTION 2. Section thirty-seven of chapter fifty-one, as so
2 appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the word “first.” in line
3 4, and inserting in place thereof the following:— first, except the
4 name of any person who provides the registrars with a copy of a
5 court order granting protection, or evidence of residence in a protec-
6 tive shelter.

1 SECTION 3. Section forty-four of chapter fifty-one, as so
2 appearing, is hereby amended by adding after the last sentence the
3 following sentence:— The affidavit of any person who provides the
4 registrars with a copy of a court order granting protection, or evi-
5 dence of residence in a protective shelter shall not be a public
6 record.

1 SECTION 4. Section forty-four of chapter fifty-one, as most
2 recently amended by Chapter 475 of the Acts of 1994, is hereby
3 amended by adding after the last sentence the following sentence:—
9 The affidavit of any person who provides the registrars with a copy
10 of a court order granting protection, or evidence of residence in a
11 protective shelter shall not be a public record.

1 SECTION 5. Said chapter 51 is hereby further amended by
2 inserting after section 51 the following section:—

3 Section 51A. To every person whose affidavit of voter registra-
4 tion is not a public record, and whose name and address do not
5 appear on the annual register pursuant to sections thirty-seven and
6 forty-four, the registrars shall issue a certificate, entitled
7 “Confidential Registration,” similar to that provided for in section
8 fifty-nine. Upon presentation of such certificate to the presiding offi-
9 cer at the proper polling place, or, in the case of an absent voter, if
10 such certificate is attached to the voting lists, such person shall have
11 the same right to vote as any other registered voter. Except in the
12 case of an absent voter, after such person has voted, the presiding
13 officer shall attach the certificate to the voting list and it shall be
14 returned to the registrars. Any such certificate shall not be a public
15 record, and no person shall make any statement or give any informa-
16 tion in regard thereto, except as required by law.

1 SECTION 6. Section fourteen of chapter fifty-six of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the 1992 Official Edition is hereby amended
3 by adding the following sentence:— A primary or election officer
4 who makes any statement or gives any information in regard to a
5 Confidential Registration Certificate, as defined in section 51A of
6 chapter 51, except as required by law, shall be punished by a fine of
7 not more than five hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not more
8 than one year.

1 SECTION 7. Section 4 of this act shall take effect on January 1,
2 1995.

