

SENATE No. 344

By Mr. Lees, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 344) of
Brian P. Lees for legislation relative to voting list access. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO VOTING LIST ACCESS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 51 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 1994 Official Edition, is hereby amended in section 55 by
3 striking said section and inserting in place thereof the following
4 new section: —

5 Section 55. Registrars shall, from the names entered in the
6 annual register of voters, prepare voting lists for use at elections,
7 but the registrars shall not enter the names of women voters in
8 separate columns or lists. In such voting lists they shall place the
9 names of all voters entered on the annual register, and no others,
10 and opposite to the name of each his other residence on January
11 first preceding or at the time of his becoming an inhabitant of
12 such place after said day, and his other party enrollment. In cities
13 they shall prepare such voting lists by wards, and if a ward or town
14 is divided into voting precincts, they shall prepare the same by
15 precincts. In all such cities and in towns having five thousand or
16 more inhabitants, the voting lists shall be arranged in the numeri-
17 cal order of the street numbers of their residences, so far as possi-
18 ble. All first voting lists shall be printed and available for public
19 distribution not later than the first day of July in state election
20 years. Said lists shall remain available in off-election years. A
21 sufficient number of voting lists shall be printed so that they can be
22 furnished free of charge, upon request, to all duly organized polit-
23 ical committees, and to all political candidates for public office in
24 the various districts in which the city or town is located. No fee
25 shall be charged for said lists; however, the registrar may limit

26 distribution to two lists per person or political committee in one
27 calendar year. Said lists shall be available for a reasonable fee, not
28 to exceed the cost of printing such list, to any person upon
29 request. Names shall be added thereto or taken therefrom as per-
30 sons are found to be qualified or not qualified to vote.
31 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the voting lists to be used at presi-
32 dential primaries or any primary or election held prior to July first
33 in any year may be that of the year preceding, revised as aforesaid.