

By Ms. Wilkerson, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 466) of Dianne Wilkerson, Pamela P. Resor, Gloria L. Fox and Alice Hanlon Peisch for legislation relative to the hiring and training of election officers. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE HIRING AND TRAINING OF ELECTION OFFICERS.

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. Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 22 the following section:—
3 Section 22A. No later than June 30, 2006, the state secretary
4 shall adopt uniform standards for the training of election officers.
5 The uniform standards shall, at a minimum, address the following
6 matters:
7 (1) relevant election laws, election regulations, and any other
8 subjects that will assist an election officer in carrying out his or
9 her duties;
10 (2) operation of the jurisdiction's voting machines;
11 (3) poll hours and procedures concerning the opening and
12 closing of polling places on election day;
13 (4) procedures regarding ballot challenges, provisional ballots,
14 and absentee ballots;
15 (5) cultural competency, including, but not limited to, having
16 adequate knowledge of diverse cultures, including languages, that
17 may be encountered by an election officer during the course of an
18 election, and the appropriate skills to work with such voters;
19 (6) knowledge regarding issues confronting voters who have
20 disabilities, including, but not limited to, access barriers and the
21 need for reasonable accommodations; and
22 (7) voter registration procedures.

1 SECTION 2. Section 11B of said Chapter 54 is hereby
2 amended by striking out in line 29, as appearing in the 2002 Offi-
3 cial Edition, the words “of the city” and inserting after the word
4 “such.” in line 31 the following words:—

5 One such election officer may be a high school student from the
6 city who meets the following qualifications: a high school student
7 in good standing; a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0
8 scale; a United States citizen; the ability to speak, read, and write
9 the English language; the ability to work the same hours on elec-
10 tion day as all other election officers; and a recommendation from
11 his or her high school principal.

1 SECTION 3. Section 12 of said Chapter 54 is hereby amended
2 by striking out in line 39, as appearing in the 2002 Official Edi-
3 tion, the words “of the town” and inserting after the word “such.”
4 in line 41 the following words:—

5 One such election officer may be a high school student from the
6 town who meets the following qualifications: a high school stu-
7 dent in good standing; a grade point average of at least 3.0 on a
8 4.0 scale; a United States citizen; the ability to speak, read, and
9 write the English language; the ability to work the same hours on
10 election day as all other election officers; and a recommendation
11 from his or her high school principal.