

SENATE No. 268.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

MR. BURRAGE proposes the following amendments to Senate No. 234, to be inserted after sect. 4:—

1 SECT. 5. It shall be the duty of every citizen of
2 the city of Boston to register anew, and any one not
3 so registering shall not be entitled to vote at any
4 election holden in the city of Boston after the regis-
5 tration provided for in this act.

6 Subsequent to the state election of the year eigh-
7 teen hundred and seventy-nine, no name of any
8 voter shall be added to the voting-lists unless the
9 applicant shall have appeared in person, and regis-
10 tered according to law.

11 It shall be the duty of the board of registrars of
12 voters of said city to prepare new and correct lists
13 of the qualified voters in said city in the manner
14 following: The board of registrars of voters shall,
15 on the twentieth day of July, in the year eighteen
16 hundred and seventy-nine, and every successive day
17 following until the thirtieth day preceding the day

18 of the state election of the year eighteen hundred
19 and seventy-nine, publish a notice, that a new and
20 general registration will be had in conformity with
21 the provisions of this act, in four daily papers, ac-
22 companied by a statement of the places and times
23 when registration may take place thereunder in each
24 ward. They shall likewise cause to be posted, dur-
25 ing the same period, the same notices in at least two
26 conspicuous places in each voting precinct in said
27 city.

28 The appointment of assistant registrars for the
29 year eighteen hundred and seventy-nine shall be
30 made in the manner following: In the month of
31 June in said year, the said board of registrars shall,
32 with the approval of the board of aldermen of said
33 city, appoint two assistant registrars in each ward,
34 one from each of the two principal political parties.
35 The assistant registrars shall, during the month of
36 August in the same year, hold in their respective
37 wards not less than ten sessions, and in the month
38 of September, and up to the evening of the thirtieth
39 day preceding the day of the state election of said
40 year, not less than fifteen sessions; but no name
41 shall be registered after ten o'clock in the evening
42 on the thirtieth day preceding the said state election.
43 Said board shall also fill temporary vacancies in the
44 office of assistant registrars in case of sickness, dis-
45 ability, resignation, removal, or absence, of any of
46 them, in such a way that the assistant registrars
47 acting in each ward shall always have one represen-
48 tative from each of the two principal political par-
49 ties.

1 SECT. 6. The assistant registrars in each ward
2 shall be in attendance, as provided in the foregoing
3 section, to receive applications for registration, and
4 shall administer an oath to all applicants and wit-
5 nesses appearing before them to testify truly in an-
6 swer to all questions material to the right of such
7 applicants to be registered; and any applicant or wit-
8 ness knowingly making false answers to such ques-
9 tions shall be deemed guilty of perjury.

10 The assistant registrars shall enter in separate col-
11 umns of the register the following facts regarding
12 each applicant: —

13 1. His name in full.

14 2. His residence, giving the street, square, or al-
15 ley, the number of the house therein, or such other
16 description as may render it easy of identification;
17 and, if there be more than one family resident
18 therein, the floor on which he lives.

19 3. The length of his residence aforesaid; and, if
20 said residence is not sufficiently long to qualify him
21 to vote, the other places in which he has resided
22 during such requisite period.

23 4. The place of his birth; and, if he is a natural-
24 ized citizen, his former nationality.

25 5. His business address by street, square, or alley,
26 with number.

27 6. His occupation.

28 7. Whether he has voted before, and, if so, the
29 year, and the town, ward, or precinct, in which he
30 last voted, and his residence, as described in clause
31 two, when he so voted.

32 8. If a naturalized citizen, the date of his natu-

33 ralization, the court in which he was naturalized,
34 and the evidence produced by him of the fact.

35 9. The date of his application for registration,
36 and such other information to establish his identity
37 and qualifications as the registrars of voters shall
38 direct.

39 10. Whether he can comply with the require-
40 ments of the constitution with regard to reading,
41 and if he has read in their presence.

42 11. The name of the applicant, written by him-
43 self in the presence of the assistant registrars.

44 12. If the assistant registrars agree on the regis-
45 tration or rejection of an applicant, each shall affix
46 his initials: if there is a difference in opinion, a
47 minute shall be made thereof, and of the reason
48 therefor; and the case shall be referred to the board
49 of registrars of voters for their determination, who
50 shall hear the applicant, if he shall so desire.

1 SECT. 7. The board of registrars of voters shall
2 revise and correct the lists so made by the assistant
3 registrars.

1 SECT. 8. All registrations under this act shall be
2 in public, subject to such reasonable regulations for
3 the preservation of order as the board of registrars
4 shall prescribe. The lists of registered voters, and
5 the records of the board of registrars of voters and
6 of the assistant registrars, shall be open to public
7 inspection, so far as may be consistent with the per-
8 formance of the duties of said officers.

1 SECT. 9. The board of registrars of voters, or
2 any member of said board, may apply in writing at
3 any time to the board of police commissioners in said
4 city for such information in regard to persons who
5 are registered as voters, or who have applied for
6 registration, as may serve to verify and correct the
7 voting list ; and, upon such application, it shall be
8 the duty of said police commissioners to procure the
9 information desired, and furnish it without delay, in
10 writing, to the said registrars.

1 SECT. 10. Twenty days at least prior to the day
2 of the state election of the year eighteen hundred
3 and seventy-nine, the board of registrars of voters
4 shall expose in their office for inspection, and shall
5 cause to be posted in at least two conspicuous places
6 in each voting precinct, the assessors' lists, prepared
7 under the provisions of chapter two hundred and
8 forty-three of the laws of the year eighteen hundred
9 and seventy-eight, as corrected by said board of
10 registrars, on which shall be designated the per-
11 sons who have registered ; and no names shall be
12 added thereafter, unless the qualifications of the said
13 person as a voter shall have been determined under
14 the provisions of this act previous to the close of
15 registration.

1 SECT. 11. The expenses necessary for carrying
2 out the provisions of this act shall be paid by the
3 city of Boston ; and the compensation of the mem-
4 bers of the board of registrars of voters and of the
5 assistant registrars shall not be less than that estab-

6 lished at the date of the passage of this act ; or, if
7 no compensation has been established in the year
8 eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, it shall not be
9 less than the compensation established in the year
10 eighteen hundred and seventy-eight.