

By Mr. Lapointe of Chicopee, petition of Paul Guzzi (Secretary of the Commonwealth), Francis C. Lapointe, Michael C. Creedon and others that qualified voters be authorized to submit affidavits of registration by mail and increasing penalties for making false affidavits. Election Laws.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING PERSONS QUALIFIED TO VOTE TO SUBMIT AFFIDAVITS OF REGISTRATION BY MAIL AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR MAKING FALSE AFFIDAVITS.

*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 36 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws, as  
2 most recently amended by Chapter 367 of the Acts of 1975, is  
3 hereby further amended by striking out the word "TITLE" in the  
4 AFFIDAVIT OF REGISTRATION and inserting in place  
5 thereof the words:—

6 ADDRESS OF WITNESS

1 SECTION 2. Section 42A of Chapter 51 of the General Laws,  
2 as most recently amended by Chapter 1137 of the Acts of 1973 is  
3 hereby amended by striking said section and inserting in place  
4 thereof the following:—

5 *Section 42A.* Any person qualified to vote in any city or town  
6 may, without appearing in person, complete and submit an  
7 affidavit of registration by mail to the registrars of voters of such  
8 city or town in the manner provided by this section. The registrars  
9 of voters of every city and town shall provide affidavits of  
10 registration to persons seeking to register by mail and shall make  
11 affidavits of registration available at United States post offices  
12 and public libraries and at such other places within their city or  
13 town, including banks and supermarkets, as they may consider  
14 effective for the purpose of registering voters.

15 The affidavit of registration shall be substantially as prescribed  
16 in section 36 provided that the words "WITNESS" and  
17 "ADDRESS OF WITNESS" may be omitted. Such affidavits  
18 shall include or be accompanied by a statement of requirements  
19 for eligibility to register, penalties for violation of applicable  
20 election laws and such further information and instruction to  
21 persons seeking to register as the state secretary may, by  
22 regulation, prescribe.

23 Upon receipt of an affidavit of registration completed in  
24 accordance with this section, the registrars shall date the affidavit  
25 which shall be the date of registration and shall add the person's  
26 name to the current annual register of voters in accordance with  
27 sections 46 and 47A. Incomplete affidavits or affidavits from  
28 which it appears that the person is not qualified to be registered to  
29 vote shall be subject to the provisions of section 47. If the  
30 affidavit of registration of any person is received by the registrars  
31 during a period when registration to qualify as a voter in a  
32 particular preliminary, primary or election is prohibited by  
33 section 26, such person, if otherwise qualified, shall be registered  
34 and his name shall be placed on the voting lists as a registered  
35 voter for all later preliminaries, primaries or elections and such  
36 person shall be so notified.

37 Where the registrars of voters of one city or town receive an  
38 affidavit of registration from a person not qualified to vote in  
39 such city or town but who appears to the registrars to be qualified  
40 to vote in another city or town in the commonwealth, the  
41 registrars shall forthwith transmit the affidavit of registration to  
42 the registrars of such other city or town.

1 SECTION 3. Section 44 of said Chapter 51, as most recently  
2 amended by Chapter 1137 of the Acts of 1973, is hereby amended  
3 by striking said section and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following:—

5 *Section 44.* A person seeking to register shall complete an  
6 affidavit in the form prescribed by section thirty-six and shall sign  
7 the affidavit under the pains and penalties of perjury. If the  
8 person is unable to sign his name, he shall make his mark, which  
9 shall be witnessed. A person registering as a voter may at the  
10 same time and place establish his enrollment in a political party,  
11 as provided in section 38 of chapter fifty-three, by indicating his

12 desire to be enrolled on the affidavit of registration. Upon receipt  
13 of an affidavit of registration completed in accordance with this  
14 section, the registrars shall date the affidavit which shall be the  
15 date of registration.

1 SECTION 4. Section 6 of Chapter 56 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking said section and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following: —

4 Whoever knowingly or willfully makes a false affidavit, takes  
5 a false oath or signs a false certificate relative to the qualifications  
6 of any person for listing or registration shall be punished by a fine  
7 of not more than two thousand dollars or by imprisonment for  
8 not more than two years.

1 SECTION 5. Section 8 of said chapter 56 is hereby amended  
2 by striking the words “one thousand dollars or by imprisonment  
3 for not more than one year” and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following: —

5 two thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than  
6 two years.

The history of the United States is a story of growth and change. From the first European settlements to the present day, the nation has expanded its territory and diversified its economy. The early years were marked by the struggle for independence and the establishment of a new government. The middle years saw the westward expansion and the rise of industry. The late years have been characterized by the challenges of a global world and the pursuit of social justice.

The United States has always been a land of opportunity. It has attracted immigrants from all over the world, who have brought with them their skills, their traditions, and their dreams. The result has been a rich and diverse culture that has made the United States a unique and powerful nation.

As the United States grows, it must also evolve. The challenges of the future are different from those of the past. We must find new ways to address the needs of a changing world. We must work together to create a better future for all.

The history of the United States is a story of hope and possibility. It is a story that inspires us to reach for the stars and to make a difference in the world.