

SENATE . . . No. 246.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, May 18, 1887.

The Committee on the Liquor Law, to whom was referred, upon the recommendation of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, so much of the message from His Excellency the Governor (Senate, No. 86) as relates to the failure of our present statute laws to provide for the punishment of fraudulent voting upon the question of granting licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors, report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

L. T. JEFTS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven.

AN ACT

To require and regulate the Use of Self-Registering and Cancelling Ballot-Boxes in taking the Vote upon the Question of granting Liquor Licenses.

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. In taking the vote at the time of
2 the annual municipal election or town meeting
3 upon the question of granting licenses for the sale
4 of intoxicating liquors, a ballot-box shall be used
5 at each polling precinct or place of meeting or
6 voting in each city and town which shall be pro-
7 vided with sufficient and secure locks and keys
8 or seal fastenings, and which shall contain me-
9 chanical devices for receiving, registering and
10 cancelling every ballot deposited therein; but no
11 such box shall record any number or mark upon
12 any ballot by which said ballots can be distin-
13 guished from each other. Said boxes either shall

14 have been or shall be approved by the secretary,
15 treasurer and auditor of the Commonwealth or a
16 majority of them, shall not hereafter exceed in
17 cost the sum of forty dollars each, and orders for
18 the last-named shall be given to the manufacturers
19 or venders thereof within four months from the
20 date of the passage of this act.

1 SECT. 2. All ballots upon said question cast
2 at any such election or meeting shall be deposited
3 in such boxes; and no ballots shall be counted in
4 ascertaining the result of such vote unless so
5 deposited and cancelled or deposited in accord-
6 ance with the following section.

1 SECT. 3. If for any cause it shall become
2 impossible in taking the vote upon said question
3 to make use of the ballot-boxes herein required,
4 the balloting shall proceed as the presiding offi-
5 cers in said polling precinct or place of meeting
6 or voting shall direct; and the clerk shall make a
7 record of the facts pertaining thereto, and return
8 an attested copy of his record thereof in an
9 envelope, which shall also contain the ballots
10 returned as having been cast upon said question.

1 SECT. 4. The provisions of sections fourteen
2 to seventeen, inclusive, of chapter two hundred
3 and ninety-nine of the acts of the year eighteen
4 hundred and eighty-four shall apply to the ballot-
5 boxes hereby provided for.

4 SELF-REGISTERING BALLOT-BOXES. [May,'87.

1 SECT. 5. All existing provisions of law to
2 prevent fraudulent voting, and the penalties
3 therefor, shall apply to the taking of the vote
4 upon the license question.

1 SECT. 6. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.