

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of John A. Businger for legislation to regulate the polling hours in local primaries and elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT CHANGING THE POLLING HOURS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS.

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 63 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the follow-
4 ing section:—

5 Section 63. The polls at every such primary, or preliminary,
6 may be open as early as fifteen minutes before six o'clock in the
7 forenoon, and shall be open not later than seven o'clock in the
8 forenoon, and shall remain open until eight o'clock in the
9 evening.

1 SECTION 2. Section 64 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the follow-
4 ing section:—

5 Section 64. Notices of warrants for state and city elections and
6 for the election of town officers in towns where official ballots are
7 used shall specify by name all the offices to be voted for, and
8 state, in the form in which it will appear upon the ballot, any
9 question submitted to the voters. They shall specify the time when
10 the polls will be opened, and the time when the polls will be
11 closed.

12 In cities and towns at the election of state officers, the polls
13 may be open as early as fifteen minutes before six o'clock in the
14 forenoon, and shall be open not later than seven o'clock in the
15 forenoon and shall remain open until eight o'clock in the evening.

16 In cities and towns, at the election of city or town officers, the
17 polls may be open as early as fifteen minutes before six o'clock in
18 the forenoon, and shall be open not later than seven o'clock in the
19 forenoon and shall remain open until eight o'clock in the evening.
20 When the polls are open in a city or town for the purpose of vot-
21 ing on a question to be submitted to the voters of said city or
22 town, the polls shall remain open the same as the hours designated
23 for the election of city and town officials.

1 SECTION 3. Section 44A of chapter 43 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking the second paragraph and inserting in place thereof the
4 following:—

5 Notices or warrants for regular, preliminary and special elec-
6 tions shall specify by name all the offices to be voted for and
7 state, in the form in which it will appear upon the ballot, any ques-
8 tion submitted to the voters. They shall specify the time when the
9 polls will be opened and when the polls will be closed. The polls
10 at such elections shall be open during such hours as the city coun-
11 cil may prescribe; provided, that they shall be opened not earlier
12 than fifteen minutes before six o'clock in the forenoon nor later
13 than seven o'clock in the forenoon and shall be kept open until
14 eight o'clock in the evening. The ballots to be used at such elec-
15 tions shall be governed by the provisions of section forty-nine.