

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 6530

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## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 20, 1980.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was recommitted the Bill requiring the filing of a bond for certain recounts (House, No. 1046), reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 6530) ought to pass.

For the committee,

TIMOTHY A. BASSETT

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty.

AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COST OF THE ELECTION.

*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 one hundred thirty-five of Chapter fifty-four of the  
2 General Laws as most recently amended by Section one of Chapter  
3 eight hundred seventy-nine of the Acts of nineteen hundred seven-  
4 ty-seven is hereby further amended by inserting after the first  
5 paragraph the following new one: —

6 Any candidate on whose behalf a recount is being petitioned for,  
7 and who has received less than 50% of the number of votes received  
8 by the nominee in a primary or preliminary election or less than  
9 50% of the votes received by the person declared elected in such  
10 election shall post a bond with the city or town clerk in the amount  
11 of one half the estimated cost of such recount as determined by  
12 such clerks. Said bond shall be posted by the candidate before any  
13 recount shall take place. Such bond shall be in a form approved by  
14 the clerk, shall be signed by such candidate, shall run to the city or  
15 town wherein the recount is taking place and shall be in force  
16 during the year in which the recount is taking place. Any candidate  
17 who has been required to post a bond for a recount and fails to  
18 substantially narrow their margin of defeat or to overturn their  
19 defeat shall pay to the Registrars of Voters one half of the cost of  
20 such recount. On determination by the clerk that a candidate has  
21 failed to narrow his margin of defeat substantially or to overturn  
22 his defeat he shall request the city or town council to bring action in  
23 the name of the clerk upon the bond of such candidate and may  
24 recover for the benefit of the city or town up to one half of the cost  
25 of the recount