

By Mr. Brett of Boston, petition of James T. Brett for legislation to require the filing of a bond for certain recounts in elections. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING THE FILING OF A BOND FOR CERTAIN RECOUNTS.

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 and thirty-five of chapter 54 of the General
2 Laws, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting after
3 the thirteenth paragraph the following new paragraph: —

4 In cities and towns where recounts are petitioned and the
5 difference between the vote cast for the leading candidate and that
6 of the candidate lead is more than one half of one percent of the
7 total number of votes cast for the office, recount petitions filed
8 on behalf of those candidates receiving less than the leading
9 candidate minus said one half of one percent of the total votes
10 cast for the office shall file with said petition a bond in a penal
11 sum to be determined by the board of election commissioners or
12 registrar of voters but in no event more than ten thousand dollars
13 to insure the payment of the costs of said recount, if necessary,
14 in accordance with the next paragraph.

15 If the amended records of votes cast resulting after said recount
16 do not reflect that the difference between the votes cast for the
17 leading candidate and the candidate lead is less than one half of
18 one percent of the total votes cast for the office, the board of
19 election commissioners or registrar of voters shall certify to the
20 treasurer of such city or town the costs of said recount and said
21 treasurer shall make demand for said sum within fifteen days of
22 said certification. The candidate on whose behalf said recount and
23 bond were filed shall make payment of said demand within ten
24 days thereafter.

