

HOUSE No. 5985

By Mr. Tarr of Gloucester, petition of Bruce E. Tarr and Robert C. Buell (by vote of the town) for legislation to require that certain measures in the town of Manchester-by-the-Sea be approved at town elections. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN MEASURES IN THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA BE APPROVED AT A TOWN 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 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to
2 the contrary, in the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea, no
3 incurrence of indebtedness or other action that the town's general
4 by-law, as from time to time in effect, provides should be
5 authorized pursuant to this Act, and no other action that a town
6 meeting determines should be so authorized, shall be valid unless
7 (i) with respect to such indebtedness or other action specified in
8 the general by-law, the town meeting determines by majority vote
9 that the incurrence of the indebtedness or the other action shall
10 be submitted to the voters as a ballot question at a town election,
11 and (ii) the ballot question as to such incurrence or as to the other
12 action that is specified in the general by-law or that a town meeting
13 has determined should be authorized pursuant to this Act is
14 approved by a quantum of vote sufficient to authorize it at a town
15 meeting. The election at which voters act on the question by ballot
16 may be the annual election or a special election which the
17 selectmen shall promptly call, held in either case not less than
18 thirty and not more than sixty days after the dissolution of the
19 meeting.

20 The question submitted to voters as a ballot question shall
21 appear on the ballot in the following form: "Do you approve of

22 the measure summarized below?" A fair, concise summary of the
23 measure, as determined by the town counsel, shall follow. The
24 polls at such election shall be open as required by section sixty-
25 four of the General Laws for the election of town officers, and
26 all other provisions of the General Laws pertaining to town
27 elections shall apply. No quorum shall be required in voting on
28 any ballot question under this act.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.