

By Mr. Tolman (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 356) of Walter J. Ziobro, Jr., for legislation to allow a run-off election for presidential electors. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AN ACT TO ALLOW A RUN-OFF ELECTION FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 54, Section 118 is hereby amended by substituting the
2 following:—

3 Section 118. The copies of the records of votes for presidential
4 electors shall, in any event, within ten days after they have been
5 transmitted to the state secretary, be examined by the governor
6 and council, who shall thereafter declare, by proclamation, the
7 names of the persons who have received at least one-half of one
8 percent of the entire number of votes cast for electors, and the
9 number of votes received by each such person. The several per-
10 sons, to the number of electors required to be chosen, who have
11 received a majority of the votes cast, excluding blanks, unless
12 notice of a contest has been received by the governor, shall, at the
13 expiration of fourteen days from the date of such proclamation, be
14 deemed to be elected; and the governor shall thereupon issue a
15 certificate of election to every such person. In the event that no
16 such person has received a majority of the votes cast, excluding
17 blanks, a runoff election shall be held no later than four weeks
18 after the date of the general election, on the ballots of which shall
19 be printed only the names of the candidates receiving the first and
20 second highest number of votes cast, in the same manner as
21 appearing on the ballots of the general election. In the counting,
22 recording, and transmitting to the state secretary of the votes of
23 such run-off, no votes received by any candidate other than the
24 first and second highest vote getters in the general election shall

25 be considered, and the several persons, to the number of electors
26 required to be chosen, who have received a majority of the votes
27 cast in such run-off election, excluding blanks, shall be deemed to
28 be elected; and the governor shall thereon issue a certificate of
29 election to every such person, in accordance with this section.