

HOUSE No. 1576

By Mr. Tamkin of Boston, petition of Alvin C. Tamkin relative to the election of delegates to pre-primary state conventions of political parties. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE PRE-PRIMARY STATE CONVENTIONS.

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. Chapter 53 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 2, as most recently
3 amended by section 2 of chapter 406 of the acts of 1953,
4 and inserting in place thereof the following section:—
5 *Section 2.* Except in the case of municipal nomina-
6 tions where a city charter or a law applying specially
7 to a particular town otherwise provides, and except as
8 provided in section fifty-four candidates of political
9 parties for all elective offices, except presidential elector,
10 shall be nominated, and delegates and alternate delegates
11 to national conventions, delegates to state conventions
12 and members of political committees, except as provided
13 in sections one and four of chapter fifty-two, shall be
14 elected, in primaries or caucuses, and the nomination of
15 any party other than a political party, in any district
16 containing more than one ward or town, shall be made
17 by a convention of delegates chosen by caucuses held
18 under section one hundred and seventeen in the wards
19 and towns of the district for which the nomination is to
20 be made. All nominations and elections in primaries
21 and caucuses shall be by direct plurality vote. No

22 candidates shall be nominated, and no member of a
23 political committee or convention delegate elected, in
24 any other manner than is provided in this chapter or
25 chapter fifty-two.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 53 is hereby further amended
2 by striking out section 54, as most recently amended by
3 section 7 of said chapter 406, and inserting in place
4 thereof the following section:—

5 *Section 54.* Beginning in the year nineteen hundred
6 and fifty-two, a political party shall, upon the call of its
7 state committee, but not later than June fifteenth, in a
8 year in which a biennial state election is held, hold a
9 state convention for the purpose of adopting a platform,
10 electing such number of members at large of the state
11 committee as maybe fixed by the convention, nominating
12 presidential electors and endorsing for nomination candi-
13 dates for offices to be filled by all the voters of the com-
14 monwealth, to be voted for at the ensuing state primary,
15 and for such other purposes consistent with law as the
16 convention may determine. Such convention shall con-
17 sist of the delegates elected at the party primary as
18 hereinbefore provided. The number of delegates shall
19 be one from each ward and town and one additional for
20 every fifteen hundred votes, or major fraction thereof,
21 above the first fifteen hundred votes cast at the pre-
22 ceding biennial state election in such ward or town for the
23 political party candidate for governor. In case of a
24 vacancy occurring for any reason except a tie vote such
25 vacancy shall not be filled. Nothing herein contained
26 shall affect or diminish the operation of the laws relating
27 to state primaries contained in sections forty-one to
28 fifty-three A, inclusive.