

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 4, 1983.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 395) of Louis P. Bertonazzi for legislation to provide for the registration of voters at seventeen years of age, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1067) of Doris Bunte, Sandra Graham and Nicholas J. Costello for legislation to establish postcard voter registration for the residents of the Commonwealth, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1255) of Doris Bunte, Sandra Graham and Nicholas J. Costello for legislation to establish the position of voter registration specialist for youth in the public schools of the Commonwealth, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1656) of Steven Angelo that provision be made for the distribution of voter registration applications to high school students, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1657) of Allan R. Chiocca that provision be made for the appointment of assistant registrars in certain public and private schools of the Commonwealth, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1824) of Royal L. Bolling, Jr., Thomas M. Finneran, Vincent J. Piro, George J. Bourque and another that provision be made for greater voter participation by permitting registration on election day, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3648) of Michael Joseph Connolly, Gerard D'Amico and other members of the General Court that provision be made for an assistant registrar of voters at high schools and vocational schools, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3819) of Alfred E. Saggese, Jr., relative to voter registration by mail, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4175) of Lawrence R. Alexander, John Gray, John C. McNeil, Peter Forman, Forrester A. Clark, Jr., and Christopher J. Hodgkins that provision be made for the distribution of voter registration applications to high school students, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4714) of John A. Businger for legislation to provide for voter registration sessions in certain places of activity, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4721) of John A. Businger that

provision be made for voter registration when making annual street listings, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4727) of the Citizens for Participation in Political Action and John A. Businger that persons qualified to vote be authorized to submit affidavits of registration by mail and increasing penalties for making false affidavits, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4730) of the Citizens for Participation in Political Action, John A. Businger and William D. Benson relative to voter registration of persons temporarily absent from their place of residence, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4735) of John A. Businger relative to the voter registration of persons temporarily absent from their place of residence, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5094) of Rosaire Rajotte that persons presenting valid birth certificates be allowed to vote in any election in the Commonwealth, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5301) of Michael Joseph Connolly, John A. Businger, other members of the General Court and others relative to authorizing persons qualified to vote to submit affidavits of registration by mail and increasing penalties for making false affidavits, and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 5312) of Byron Rushing, Doris Bunte, Sandra Graham, Thomas M. Gallagher, Raymond A. Jordan, Jr., and Royal L. Bolling, Jr., relative to voter registration, reports recommending that the accompanying resolve (House, No. 6142), ought to pass [Senator D'Amico and Representative Businger of Brookline dissenting].

For the committee,

EMANUEL G. SERRA.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO IMPROVING PRESENT REGISTRATION METHODS AND MAIL REGISTRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

1 *Resolved*, That there is hereby established a special commis-
2 sion, to consist of 4 members of the senate, one of whom shall be
3 appointed as co-chairperson of the commission; 7 members of the
4 house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed as co-
5 chairperson of the commission; the secretary of the Common-
6 wealth and three persons to be appointed by the governor, one of
7 whom shall be a city or town clerk, one of whom shall be from a
8 citizens lobbying group, and one of whom shall be from organized
9 labor.

10 Said commission shall prepare and issue a report on the feasibil-
11 ity of establishing mail registration in Massachusetts. Said report
12 shall include but not be limited to:

13 (a) the methods and technologies used in other states that have
14 mail registration.

15 (b) any problems associated with administering mail registra-
16 tion.

17 (c) the cost of implementing mail registration in Massachusetts.

18 (d) the impacts, both favorable and adverse, resulting from the
19 use of mail registration.

20 (e) said commission shall look at other methods of improving
21 voter registration in Massachusetts.

22 (f) said commission shall also look into the feasibility and cost
23 of automatic registration for persons 18 years of age. The basis of
24 which would be the annual street listing or census utilizing comput-
25 er data processing for verification or the new juror selection man-
26 agement system being implemented in the Commonwealth.

27 Said Commission shall be provided with quarters in the State
28 House, may hold hearings, may expend for legal, technical and for
29 other services and expenses such sums as may be appropriated

30 therefor. Said commission may travel within the Commonwealth.
31 Said commission may travel without the Commonwealth to study
32 and compare the procedure and regulations of other states, per-
33 taining to mail registration.

34 During the course of its investigation and study, said commis-
35 sion shall develop proposed legislation and rules necessary for
36 implementing mail registration in Massachusetts.

37 Said commission may report to the House from time to time, but
38 shall file its final report, together with its recommendations, if any,
39 with the Clerk of the House of Representatives on or before the last
40 Wednesday of September nineteen hundred and eighty-three.