

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1959

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Mr. McCarthy of Somerville gives notice he will move that this bill be substituted for the Bill relative to the use of the words "candidate for re-election" on official ballots in the case of certain candidates bearing the same or a similar surname (Senate, No. 469). April 29.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Eight.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ARRANGEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES UPON BALLOTS AT STATE PRIMARIES AND ELECTIONS AND TO THE USE OF THE WORDS "CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION" ON OFFICIAL BALLOTS IN THE CASE OF CERTAIN CANDIDATES BEARING THE SAME OR A SIMILAR SURNAME.

*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. The first paragraph of section thirty-  
2 four of chapter fifty-three of the General Laws, as  
3 appearing in section seven of chapter three hundred  
4 and ten of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-  
5 two, is hereby amended by striking out, in the thir-  
6 teenth and fourteenth lines, the words "endorsed for  
7 nomination by a state convention" and inserting in  
8 place thereof the words:— for nomination to state  
9 offices of which they are the elected incumbents,—  
10 so as to read as follows:— At the top of each ballot  
11 shall be printed the words "Official ballot of the

12 (here shall follow the party name)". On the back of  
13 each ballot when folded shall be printed the same  
14 words, followed by the number of the precinct and  
15 ward or the name of the town for which the ballot is  
16 prepared, the date of the primary and for state or  
17 party primaries a facsimile of the signature of the  
18 state secretary and for city or town primaries a fac-  
19 simile of the signature of the city or town clerk.  
20 Names of candidates for each elective office and for  
21 delegates to state conventions and for members of  
22 state committees shall be arranged alphabetically  
23 according to their surnames, except that names of  
24 candidates for renomination to state offices of which  
25 they are the elected incumbents shall be placed first  
26 and names of other candidates shall follow in alpha-  
27 betical order.

1 SECTION 2. The third paragraph of section forty-  
2 one of chapter fifty-four of the General Laws, as most  
3 recently amended by chapter one hundred and ninety  
4 of the acts of the current year, is hereby further  
5 amended by striking out the second sentence and  
6 inserting in place thereof the following:—

7 To the name of a candidate for a state or city office  
8 who is an elected incumbent thereof and who is one  
9 of two or more candidates therefor bearing the same  
10 or a similar surname, there shall be added in the  
11 same space the words "Candidate for Re-election".

1 SECTION 3. The first paragraph of section forty-  
2 two of chapter fifty-four of the General Laws, as ap-  
3 pearing in section five of chapter one hundred and  
4 thirty-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-  
5 two, is hereby amended by inserting after the word

6 “except” in the fourth line the words:— that the  
7 names of candidates for re-election to state offices of  
8 which they are the elected incumbents shall be placed  
9 first in such alphabetical order, and except, — so as  
10 to read as follows:— The names of candidates for  
11 every state, city and town office, except presidential  
12 electors, shall be arranged under the designation of the  
13 office in alphabetical order according to their sur-  
14 names, except that the names of candidates for re-  
15 election to state offices of which they are the elected  
16 incumbents shall be placed first in such alphabetical  
17 order, and except as city charters otherwise provide  
18 in the case of municipal offices; but the names of  
19 candidates for different terms of service in the same  
20 office shall be arranged in groups according to the  
21 length of their respective terms, and the names of  
22 candidates nominated by single wards but to be voted  
23 for at large shall be arranged in groups by wards. In  
24 the case of representatives in congress, the designa-  
25 tion may be “congressman”. Blank spaces shall be  
26 left at the end of the list of candidates for each dif-  
27 ferent office, except presidential electors, equal to  
28 the number to be elected thereto, in which the voter  
29 may insert the name of any person not printed on  
30 the ballot for whom he desires to vote for such office.  
31 If the approval of any question is submitted to the  
32 voters, it shall be printed on the ballot after the names  
33 of the candidates.

