

HOUSE No. 1310

By Mr. Lanigan of Boston (by request), petition of, the Progressive Citizens of Massachusetts for legislation to liberalize the requirements for nomination of candidates for any offices to be filled at state election by nomination papers. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Seven.

AN ACT TO LIBERALIZE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR ANY OFFICES TO BE FILLED AT STATE ELECTION BY NOMINATION PAPERS.

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 6 of chapter 53 of the General Laws is
2 hereby amended by striking out in line five the word
3 "three" and inserting in place thereof the words:—
4 one tenth of one,— and by striking out in line seven-
5 teen the word "one" and inserting in place thereof
6 the words:— one tenth of one,— so as to read:—
7 *Section 6.* Nominations of candidates for any offices
8 to be filled at a state election may be made by nomi-
9 nation papers, stating the facts required by section
10 eight and signed in the aggregate by not less than
11 such number of voters as will equal one tenth of one
12 per cent of the entire vote cast for governor at the
13 preceding biennial state election in the common-
14 wealth at large or in the electoral district or division

15 for which the officers are to be elected. In the case
16 of offices to be filled by all the voters in the common-
17 wealth, no more than one third of the required num-
18 ber of signatures shall be from any one county.
19 Nominations of candidates for offices to be filled at a
20 city or town election, except where city charters or
21 general or special laws provide otherwise, may be
22 made by like nomination papers, signed in the aggre-
23 gate by not less than such number of voters as will
24 equal one tenth of one per cent of the entire vote cast
25 for governor at the preceding biennial state election in
26 the electoral district or division for which the officers
27 are to be elected, but in no event by less than twenty
28 voters in the case of an office to be filled at a town
29 election. At a first election to be held in a newly
30 established ward, the number of signatures of voters
31 upon a nomination paper of a candidate who is to
32 be voted for only in such ward shall be at least fifty.