

By Mr. Shinberg of Haverhill, petition of Aaron M. I. Shinberg for establishing an annual Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing to be conducted by the State Treasurer and providing for the distribution of the proceeds thereof to cities and towns to be used for reducing the real estate taxes. Ways and Means (Joint).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Six.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL MASSACHUSETTS SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE STATE TREASURER, PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF TICKETS THEREUNDER AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MASSACHUSETTS SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING COMMISSION.

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. MASSACHUSETTS SWEEPSTAKES.

2 The state treasurer shall conduct an annual drawing to be
3 known as the "Massachusetts Sweepstakes Drawing" under
4 such plans, rules and regulations as he may adopt, subject to
5 approval of the Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing commis-
6 sion. The sweepstakes tickets shall be sold for three dollars
7 each all year round by present bonded employees of said treas-
8 urer's office and by the present bonded employees at the offices
9 of the fourteen counties and at the three hundred and fifty-one
10 city and town treasurers' offices. Tickets could be also sold by
11 present bonded employees of our four hundred and twenty-nine
12 state-chartered banks if authorized by the state treasurer.

13 The expenses involved in printing of the Massachusetts
14 sweepstakes tickets and other absolutely necessary expenses
15 shall be deducted from the gross receipts thereof and the
16 balance of the gross receipts shall be divided as follows:—

17 Fifty per cent shall be distributed to the department of
18 mental health. The remaining fifty per cent shall be awarded
19 to the "Sweepstakes" winners in many thousands of state tax-
20 exempt prizes, as follows:—

21 First prize, five hundred thousand dollars; forty prizes of

22 four hundred thousand dollars; thirty prizes of three hundred
23 thousand dollars; twenty prizes of two hundred thousand dol-
24 lars; ten prizes of one hundred thousand dollars; two hundred
25 prizes of fifty thousand dollars, and the remainder of the profit
26 would be awarded in thousands of other cash prizes ranging
27 from fifty thousand dollars down to five thousand dollars.

28 The three-dollar Massachusetts sweepstakes tickets may be
29 sold to any person or persons over twenty-one years of age from
30 any of our fifty states or from any country in the world who
31 personally presents himself during working hours at any of the
32 seven hundred and eighty aforesaid treasurers' offices or banks
33 in Massachusetts.

34 The Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing shall be held in
35 public on Independence day, July fourth, of each year or at
36 some date set by the Massachusetts sweepstakes commission.
37 The official drawing of the sweepstakes winners' numbers
38 would be conducted in the same manner as the Washington,
39 D. C., Fish Bowl Lotteries were conducted to draft our young
40 men into the armed services. It would be held at historic Fan-
41 euil Hall, Boston, the Cradle of Liberty, which was completely
42 destroyed by fire in seventeen hundred and sixty-five and re-
43 built entirely from funds from a lottery legalized by the Mas-
44 sachusetts legislature.

1 SECTION 2. The word "lottery", as used in sections seven to
2 ten (inclusive) and section fourteen of chapter two hundred
3 and seventy-one, shall not be construed to mean or include any
4 lottery conducted under this chapter.

1 SECTION 3. Whoever, other than a state-chartered bank or a
2 state, county, city or town treasurer's office sells said tickets, or
3 whoever counterfeits Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing tick-
4 ets, or whoever is found guilty of illegally tampering in any
5 manner in the honest and legal conduct of an annual Massa-
6 chusetts sweepstakes drawing shall be punished by a compul-
7 sory jail sentence of not less than one year on their first con-
8 viction with an increased jail sentence on any and every addi-
9 tional conviction.

1 SECTION 4. As a further safeguard to a corrupt-proof sweep-
2 stakes drawing, there shall be a state commission of three

3 clergymen to be known as the "Massachusetts Sweepstakes
4 Drawing Commission" to be appointed by the governor, with
5 the consent of the governor's council, for a term of three years.
6 These three clergymen, from the Catholic, Protestant and
7 Jewish faiths, shall serve in a public-spirited and civic-minded
8 capacity without compensation and shall be three spiritual
9 leaders who are keenly interested in our state treasury obtain-
10 ing new revenue in a legal manner to be used to cut present
11 high real estate taxes and high rents for all the residents of
12 Massachusetts. This commission shall approve all rules and
13 regulations necessary for the honest and efficient administra-
14 tion of a yearly Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing.

1 SECTION 5. The department of the state auditor shall make
2 a public audit of all the tickets, books, prizes and records to
3 further guarantee the honest and efficient administration of an
4 annual Massachusetts sweepstakes drawing.

