

By Mr. Businger of Brookline, petition of William E. Shakalis, John A. Businger, Alfred E. Saggese, Jr., Byron Rushing and Peter A. Vellucci for legislation to facilitate ballot access under the law relative to nominations of candidates for public office. Election Laws.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

AN ACT TO FACILITATE BALLOT ACCESS.

*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, as appearing in  
2 the 1986 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the  
3 first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two  
4 sentences: —

5 Nomination of candidates for the offices of president and vice-  
6 president of the United States, senator in congress, representative  
7 in congress, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general,  
8 treasurer and receiver general, state auditor and state secretary  
9 may be made by nomination papers, stating the facts required by  
10 section eight and signed in the aggregate by not less than such  
11 number of voters as will equal one per cent of the entire vote cast  
12 for governor at the preceding biennial state election in the  
13 commonwealth at large or in the electoral district or division for  
14 which the officers are to be elected; provided, however, that in  
15 no event shall the number of signatures required be less than the  
16 number required of the candidate of a political party for the same  
17 office in the same electoral district or division to have his name  
18 placed on the primary ballot as provided for under section forty-  
19 four. Nomination of candidates for any other office to be filled  
20 at a state election may be made by nomination papers, stating the  
21 facts required by section eight and signed in the aggregate by not  
22 less than such number of voters as will equal two per cent of the

23 entire vote cast for governor at the preceding biennial state  
24 election in the commonwealth at large or in the electoral district  
25 or division for which the officers are to be elected; provided,  
26 however, that in no event shall the number of signatures required  
27 be less than the number required of the candidate of a political  
28 party for the same office in the same electoral district or division  
29 to have his name placed on the primary ballot as provided for  
30 under section forty-four.