SENATE . . . . No. 385

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joseph A. Boncore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act allowing election day registration.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
Joseph A. Boncore	*First Suffolk and Middlesex*	
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston	*1 City Hall Square, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02201*	*1/17/2019*
Daniel J. Hunt	*13th Suffolk*	*1/28/2019*
Liz Miranda	*5th Suffolk*	*2/1/2019*
Sal N. DiDomenico	*Middlesex and Suffolk*	*2/1/2019*
Bud L. Williams	*11th Hampden*	*2/1/2019*
Nika C. Elugardo	*15th Suffolk*	*2/1/2019*
James K. Hawkins	*2nd Bristol*	*2/5/2019*
David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf	*17th Worcester*	*10/25/2019*

SENATE . . . . No. 385

By Mr. Boncore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 385) of Joseph A. Boncore, Martin J. Walsh, Mayor of Boston, Daniel J. Hunt, Liz Miranda and other members of the General Court for legislation to allow election day registration. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

_____

In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

_____

An Act allowing election day registration.

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. Chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after

2   section 64 the following section:-

3   Section 65. Election Day Registration.

4   As used in this section, "election" shall include every state, city or town primary,

5   preliminary election, election or town meeting. Notwithstanding any other section of this chapter

6   to the contrary, any person not previously registered as a voter in the commonwealth who has

7   failed to register by the time prescribed under section 26 of this chapter may appear before the

8   registrars of the city or town of the person's legal residence on the day of an election and register

9   as a voter.

10   A registrant who registers pursuant to this section shall appear in person at one or more

11   locations and during hours designated by the registrars and shall complete an affidavit of voter

12   registration in the presence of the registrars and present suitable identification.

13   If the registrars determine that the registrant qualifies to register as a voter for such

14   election, they shall cause the name and residence of the registrant to be added to the voting list of

15   the ward, voting precinct, polling place or town in which such election is being held and shall

16   immediately transmit such information to the presiding officer of the polling place where such

17   voter is assigned, and the voter shall then be permitted to vote in such election at such polling

18   place.

19   A registrant who fails to present suitable identification shall be permitted to deposit a

20   provisional ballot pursuant to the provisions of section 76C of chapter 54, but shall be required to

21   return within three days after such election to present sufficient identification to the registrars in

22   order for the registrars to determine that the registrant is qualified to vote in such election and

23   has deposited an eligible provisional ballot.

24   The registrars may correct information supplied by the registrant to the extent necessary

25   to maintain the integrity of their records. If an affidavit is incomplete or if it appears from the

26   facts set forth in the affidavit that the registrant is not qualified to register as a voter, the

27   registrars shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of section 47 of this chapter.

28   As soon as practicable after the election, the registrars shall add the registrant's name,

29   address and effective date of registration to the annual register of voters.

30   SECTION 2. The state secretary shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement

31   this section.

32   SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.