

SENATE No. 338

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bruce E. Tarr

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 to remove unfair incumbent advantage from the ballot and to change "unenrolled" to "independent"..

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Bruce E. Tarr

First Essex and Middlesex

Richard J. Ross

Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex

SENATE No. 338

By Mr. Tarr, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 338) of Bruce E. Tarr and Richard J. Ross for legislation to remove unfair incumbent advantage from the ballot and to change unenrolled to independent. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 319 OF 2011-2012.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen

An Act to remove unfair incumbent advantage from the ballot and to change "unenrolled" to "independent"..

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. Paragraph 3 of section 41 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing
2 in the 2010 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking the third, fourth and sixth sentences
3 in their entirety.

4 SECTION 2. Said paragraph 3 of said section 41 of said chapter 54 of the General Laws,
5 as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking the words “Unenrolled being used.”, in
6 line 15, and inserting in place thereof the following words:- “Independent” being used. There
7 shall be no designation indicating incumbency.”.

8 SECTION 3. Paragraph 1 of section 42 of said chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so
9 appearing, is hereby amended by striking it in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the
10 following:-

11 Section 42. Except as provided in section forty-one A, under the designation of the office,
12 the names of the candidates of political parties, as defined in chapter fifty, for election to any
13 office to be filled at a state election shall be placed on the ballot in random selection; next and
14 also by random selection the names of all other candidates shall follow.

15 SECTION 4. Paragraph 2 of said section 42 of said chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so
16 appearing, is hereby amended by striking the first sentence in its entirety and inserting in place
17 thereof the following sentence:- Under the designation of the office, the names of candidates of
18 political parties, as defined in chapter fifty, for each municipal elective office shall, except as
19 city charters otherwise provide, be placed on the ballot in random selection; next and also by
20 random selection the names of all other candidates shall follow.; and further by striking, in said
21 paragraph 2 of said section 42 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, the second sentence in its
22 entirety.

23 SECTION 5. Paragraph 3 of section 42 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as so
24 appearing, is hereby amended by striking the first sentence in its entirety and inserting in place
25 thereof the following sentence:- The names and addresses of the candidates for regional district
26 school committees elected district-wide at state elections shall be placed on the ballot by random
27 selection.