

SENATE No. 294

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Stephen M. Brewer

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 relative to the street list.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Stephen M. Brewer

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex

SENATE No. 294

By Mr. Brewer, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 294) of Stephen M. Brewer for legislation relative to the street list. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2574 OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Eleven
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An Act relative to the street list.

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 striking out section
2 4, as amended by section 2 of chapter 132 of the acts of 2009, and inserting in place thereof the
3 following section:-

4 Section 4. (a) Registrars, assistant registrars or boards having similar duties under any
5 general or special law, except in the city of Boston, shall annually in January or February visit or
6 communicate with the residents of each building in their respective cities and towns and, after
7 diligent inquiry, shall make true lists containing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name, date
8 of birth, occupation, veteran status, nationality, if not a citizen of the United States, and residence
9 on January 1 of the preceding year and the current year, of each person residing in their
10 respective cities and towns. The lists and the information contained therein shall not be a matter
11 of public record; provided, however, that the lists shall, upon written request, be available to any

12 federal agency, or to any department, agency, or institution of the commonwealth or any political
13 subdivision thereof. A list of all persons under 21 years of age shall be transmitted by the board
14 of registrars to the respective school committee not later than April 1 of each year. The list shall
15 contain the name, residence and age or date of birth of each such person, but the names shall not
16 be disclosed to any person other than the respective school committee or board of trustees of a
17 county agricultural school or their designated representatives. That proportion of any expenses
18 incurred by the registrars under this section, equal to the proportion that the number of persons
19 under 17 years of age bears to the total number of persons listed thereunder, shall be carried as
20 an item in the school committee budget.

21 (b) In the city of Boston, the registrars, assistant registrars or boards having similar duties
22 under any general or special law, shall annually in January or February visit or communicate
23 with the residents of each building in the city and, after diligent inquiry, shall make true lists
24 containing, as nearly as they can ascertain, the name, date of birth, occupation, veterans status,
25 nationality if not a citizen of the United States and residence on January 1 of the preceding year
26 and the current year, of each person 17 years of age or older residing in the city. The lists and
27 the information contained therein shall not be a matter of public record; provided, however, that
28 the lists shall, upon written request, be available to any federal agency, agency, or to any
29 department, agency, or institution of the commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof.

30 (c) In any city or town which communicates with residents by mail for the purpose of
31 obtaining the information, the communication shall state in boldface type on the postcard,
32 envelope and printed material contained in such communication the following statement:
33 "Warning: Failure to respond to this mailing shall result in removal from the active voting list
34 and may result in removal from the voter registrations rolls." Registrars, assistant registrars or

35 boards in cities or towns communicating with residents by mail for the purposes of obtaining the
36 information may require a response under the penalties of perjury.

37 (d) The name and address of a person who provides the registrars with a copy of a court
38 order granting protection or evidence of residence in a protective shelter or an affidavit signed by
39 a chief of police or the chief's designee that the person is entitled to have certain information
40 withheld from the public under section 24C of chapter 265, shall not appear on the street list and
41 the names shall not be disclosed to any person. The information collected under this section
42 regarding a person's status as a veteran shall not be a public record and shall only be disclosed to
43 the adjutant general, the secretary of veterans' services and local veterans' service officers.

44 SECTION 2. Said chapter 51 of the General Laws is hereby further amended by striking
45 out sections 6 and 7.

46 SECTION 3. Section 11 of said chapter 51, as appearing in the 2008 Official Edition, is
47 hereby amended by adding the following sentence:- The book and the information contained
48 therein shall not be a matter of public record; provided, however, that the book shall, upon
49 written request, be available to any federal agency, or to any department, agency, or institution of
50 the commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof.

51 SECTION 4. Said chapter 51 is hereby amended by striking out section 47C, as so
52 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

53 Section 47C. Subject to appropriation, the state secretary shall maintain a central registry
54 of voters which shall contain, if provided by the registrars, the names, addresses and effective
55 dates of registration of all registered voters in the commonwealth and which shall contain the
56 name, date of birth, occupation, veteran status, nationality, if not a citizen of the United States,

57 for street list purposes only and residence on January 1 in the preceding year and the current
58 year, of every person in the commonwealth and shall adopt regulations governing the operation
59 of the central registry. The information contained in the central registry shall not be a matter of
60 public record. All information in the central registry shall be available to the jury commissioner,
61 veteran status information shall be available to the adjutant general and the secretary of veterans'
62 services and information regarding the names, addresses, political designations and effective
63 dates of registration of registered voters shall be available to state party committees, statewide
64 candidate committees, state ballot question committees and any other individual, agency or entity
65 that the state secretary shall designate by regulation, consistent with the purposes of this section,
66 at a fair and reasonable cost not to exceed the cost of printing or preparing computer readable
67 documents.

68 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect January 1, 2011.