

SENATE No. 2764

Senate, June 16, 2020– Text of the Senate amendment to the House Bill relative to voting options in response to COVID-19 (House, No. 4778) (being the text of Senate, No. 2755, printed as amended)

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

1 SECTION 1. Subsection (b) of section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence and
3 inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- No application shall be deemed to be
4 seasonably filed unless it is received in the office of the city or town clerk or registrars of voters
5 before 5 P.M. on the fourth day preceding the election.

6 SECTION 2. Said section 25B of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby further
7 amended by striking out subsection (c) and inserting in place thereof the following subsection:-

8 (c) The voting period for in person early voting shall run from the eleventh business day
9 preceding the general election until the close of business on the business day preceding the
10 business day before the election; provided, however, that if the eleventh business day before the
11 election falls on a legal holiday the early voting period shall begin on the first business day prior
12 to the legal holiday. The voting period for early voting by mail shall begin as soon as all
13 necessary early voting materials have been received by the local election official pursuant to
14 subsection (h).

15 SECTION 3. Section 89 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
16 striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

17 Any form of written communication evidencing a desire to have an absent voting ballot
18 be sent for use for voting at an election shall be given the same effect as an application made in
19 the form prescribed by the state secretary. No application for an absent voting ballot to be sent by
20 mail shall be deemed to be seasonably filed unless it is received in the office of the city or town
21 clerk or registrars of voters on or before the fourth day preceding the election for which the
22 ballot is being requested; provided, however, that if the fourth day preceding such election is a
23 Sunday or a legal holiday, then it shall be received by such clerk or registrars before 5 P.M. on
24 the last previous day on which such office is open. No application for an absent voting ballot to
25 be voted in person shall be deemed to be seasonably filed unless it is received in the office of the
26 city or town clerk or registrars of voters on or before noon on the day preceding the election for
27 which such absent voting ballot is requested; provided, however, that if the day preceding such
28 election is a Sunday or legal holiday, then it shall be received by such clerk or registrars before 5
29 P.M. on the last previous day on which such office is open. An application by a voter admitted to
30 a health care facility after noon of the seventh day before the relevant election, as provided in
31 subsection (c) of section 91B, may be received up until the time the polls close.

32 SECTION 4. Section 91B of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
33 striking out, in line 21, the words “after noon of the fifth” and inserting in place thereof the
34 following words:- on or after the seventh.

35 SECTION 5. Section 92 of said chapter 54, as so appearing, is hereby amended by
36 striking out, in line 11, the words “eighty-seven, or” and inserting in place thereof the following
37 words:- 87; via a secured municipal drop box, where provided; or.

38 SECTION 6. (a) As used in sections 6 to 14, inclusive, the following words shall, unless
39 the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:-

40 “Application”, an application to vote early by mail.

41 “Central registry”, the central registry of voters established pursuant to section 47C of
42 chapter 51 of the General Laws.

43 “General election” or “election”, the general election scheduled for November 3, 2020.

44 “Primary election” or “primary”, the primary election scheduled for September 1, 2020.

45 “Qualified voter” or “voter”, a voter qualified pursuant to section 1 of chapter 51 of the
46 General Laws.

47 “State secretary,” the secretary of the commonwealth.

48 (b) Notwithstanding section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other general
49 or special law to the contrary, there shall be early voting by mail for the primary election and
50 general election.

51 (c) The election officers and registrars of every city or town shall allow any qualified
52 voter to cast an early ballot by mail for the primary election and general election and any city or
53 town election held at the same time.

54 (d)(1) The state secretary shall, not later than July 15, 2020, mail to all registered voters
55 who registered to vote before July 1 at their residential addresses or mailing addresses if different
56 from their residential addresses listed in the central registry an application for said voter to be
57 permitted to vote early by mail for the primary election and general election; provided, however,
58 that the state secretary shall not send an application to any voter whose previous application for
59 an absent or early ballot for the primary election or for all elections in calendar year 2020 has
60 been accepted.

61 (2) The state secretary shall include in the information for voters booklet sent in
62 accordance with the provisions of section 54 of chapter 54 at least 2 applications to vote early by
63 mail in the general election and shall include additional information regarding voting options for
64 the general election. The state secretary shall ensure that the voter booklets and accompanying
65 applications are mailed not later than October 5, 2020. The booklet cover or exterior mailing
66 envelope shall clearly indicate that applications to vote early by mail in the general election are
67 contained therein and that any voter who previously returned an accepted application to vote
68 early by mail need not return an additional application.

69 (3) The election officers and registrars of every city or town shall include an application
70 for a voter to be permitted to vote early by mail for the primary and general election with the
71 acknowledgement notice sent to any person registering to vote or changing their voter
72 registration address on or after July 1, 2020 and on or before October 24, 2020.

73 (4) The applications required pursuant to this subsection shall be in a form prescribed by
74 the state secretary in accordance with state and federal law; provided, however, that said
75 applications shall: (i) include clear instructions for completing and returning the application; (ii)

76 allow a voter to designate the mailing address to which the ballot shall be sent; and (iii) be pre-
77 addressed to the local election official with postage guaranteed.

78 (5)(i) Each application mailed pursuant to this subsection shall be provided in any
79 language required by the bilingual election requirements of the federal Voting Rights Act, 52
80 U.S.C. § 10503.

81 (ii) Each application mailed to a voter in the city of Boston pursuant to this subsection
82 shall include an option, which shall appear prominently on the application, to request a ballot
83 printed in any language available at the voter's polling location pursuant to chapter 166 of the
84 acts of 2014.

85 (6) The applications required pursuant to this subsection shall be made available on the
86 websites of the state secretary and the election officers and registrars of every city or town.

87 (e)(1) A voter wishing to vote early by mail in the primary election shall complete the
88 application to vote early by mail and shall return said application to the appropriate city or town
89 clerk. Any form of written communication evidencing a desire to have an early voting ballot be
90 sent for use for voting for the primary election shall be given the same effect as an application
91 made in the form prescribed by the state secretary. Applications to vote early by mail for the
92 primary election shall be acceptable if they are signed or submitted electronically; provided,
93 however, that any electronic signature shall be written in substantially the same manner as a
94 handwritten signature.

95 (2) No application to vote early by mail in the primary election shall be deemed to be
96 seasonably filed unless it is received in the office of the local election official before 5 P.M. on
97 Tuesday, August 25, 2020.

98 (f)(1) A voter wishing to vote early by mail in the general election shall complete the
99 application and shall return said application to the appropriate city or town clerk. Applications to
100 vote early by mail for the general election shall be acceptable if they are signed or submitted
101 electronically; provided, however, that any electronic signature shall be written in substantially
102 the same manner as a handwritten signature.

103 (2) No application to vote early by mail in the general election shall be deemed to be
104 seasonably filed unless it is received in the office of the local election official before 5 P.M. on
105 Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

106 (g)(1) Early voting ballots authorized pursuant to this section shall be mailed by the city
107 or town clerk to voters as soon as such materials are available; provided, however, that said
108 mailing shall include: (i) instructions for early voting; (ii) instructions for completing the ballot;
109 (iii) an inner envelope where the ballot is placed after voting which contains an affidavit of
110 compliance to be filled out by the voter; and (iv) an outer envelope that is pre-addressed to the
111 local election official with postage guaranteed; provided, that a voter who has seasonably filed
112 an application may receive an early voting ballot in person at the office of the city or town clerk.
113 The state secretary shall seek to have included on the outer envelope with postage guaranteed
114 required by this section a system which generates a postmark for determining the date upon
115 which the envelope was mailed and, if such a postmark system cannot be implemented, the state
116 secretary shall inform the clerks of the senate and house of representatives of efforts undertaken
117 and impediments to developing such a system.

118 (2) Each early voting ballot authorized pursuant to this section shall be provided to the
119 voter in the language required pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection (d); provided, that if the
120 voter did not select a language, the ballot shall be provided bilingually in English and Spanish.

121 (h)(1) A voter in receipt of an early voting ballot for the primary election pursuant to this
122 section may complete and return the ballot by: (i) delivering it in person to the office of the
123 appropriate city or town clerk; (ii) dropping it in a secured municipal drop box; or (iii) mailing it
124 to the appropriate city or town clerk.

125 (2) A voter in receipt of an early voting ballot for the general election pursuant to this
126 section may complete and return the ballot by: (i) delivering it in person to the office of the
127 appropriate city or town clerk; (ii) dropping it in a secured municipal drop box; or (iii) mailing it
128 to the appropriate city or town clerk.

129 (3) All early voting ballots submitted by mail, delivered in person to the office of the city
130 or town clerk or returned to a secured municipal drop box as provided by this section shall be
131 received by the city or town clerk before the hour fixed for closing the polls on the day of the
132 primary election or general election; provided, however, that an early voting ballot cast for the
133 general election that is received not later than 5 P.M. on November 6, 2020 and mailed on or
134 before November 3, 2020 shall be processed in accordance with the second paragraph of section
135 95 of chapter 54 of the General Laws. A postmark, if legible, shall be evidence of the time of
136 mailing.

137 (i) A voter wishing to apply to vote early by mail in the primary or general election and
138 who needs accommodation may request such accommodation from the state secretary. Upon
139 receiving information from the voter pursuant to the application in this section either by phone or

140 electronically, the state secretary shall grant accommodations to the voter. Accommodations
141 shall include, but not be limited to: (i) clear and electronic accessible instructions for completion,
142 printing and returning of the ballot; (ii) an authorized accessible blank electronic ballot that can
143 be filled out electronically, printed and signed; provided, however, that the accessible electronic
144 ballot marking system the voter utilizes to access their blank electronic ballot shall not collect or
145 store any personally identifying information obtained in the process of filling out the ballot; (iii)
146 an envelope to return the ballot to the voter's town or city clerk; and (iv) hole punched markers
147 in place of a wet signature required for certification. The electronic instructions and
148 accommodations in this section shall comply with requirements contained in Title II of the
149 federal Americans with Disabilities Act and shall conform to the Web Content Accessibility
150 Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology report titled
151 "Principles and guidelines for remote ballot marking systems." Upon printing the ballot, the
152 voter shall place the ballot in the envelope provided by the state secretary. A voter with
153 accommodations in receipt of an early voting ballot for the primary or general election pursuant
154 to this section may complete and return the ballot by: (i) delivering it in person to the office of
155 the appropriate city or town clerk; (ii) dropping it in a secured municipal drop box; or (iii)
156 mailing it to the appropriate city or town clerk.

157 SECTION 7. (a) Notwithstanding section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any
158 other general or special law to the contrary, there shall be early voting in person for the primary
159 election and the general election.

160 (b)(1) The election officers and registrars of every city or town shall allow any qualified
161 voter to cast an early ballot in person for the primary election during the early voting period,

162 which shall begin on Saturday, August 22, 2020 and end on Friday, August 28, 2020. Early
163 voting in person shall also apply to any city or town election held at the same time.

164 (2) The election officers and registrars of every city or town shall allow any qualified
165 voter to cast a ballot in person for the general election during the early voting period, which shall
166 begin on Saturday, October 17, 2020 and end on Friday, October 30, 2020. Early voting in
167 person shall also apply to any city or town election held at the same time.

168 (3) Any qualified voter wishing to vote early in person in the primary or general election
169 may do so at the time, manner and location prescribed in this section.

170 (c)(1) Early voting in person for the primary election shall be conducted on Saturday,
171 August 22, 2020 and Sunday, August 23, 2020, as follows: (i) for municipalities with fewer than
172 5,000 registered voters, for a period of a minimum of 2 hours each day; (ii) for municipalities
173 with 5,000 or more registered voters but fewer than 20,000 registered voters, for a period of a
174 minimum of 4 hours each day; (iii) for municipalities with 20,000 or more registered voters but
175 fewer than 40,000 registered voters, for a period of a minimum of 5 hours each day; (iv) for
176 municipalities with 40,000 or more registered voters but fewer than 75,000 registered voters, for
177 a period of a minimum of 6 hours each day; and (v) for municipalities with 75,000 or more
178 registered voters, for a period of a minimum of 8 hours each day. For each other day during the
179 early voting period, early voting shall be conducted during the usual business hours of each city
180 or town clerk. A city or town may, in its discretion, provide for additional early voting hours
181 beyond the hours required by this paragraph.

182 (2) Early voting for the general election shall be conducted on Saturday, October 17,
183 2020, Sunday, October 18, 2020, Saturday, October 24, 2020 and Sunday, October 25, 2020 as

184 follows: (i) for municipalities with fewer than 5,000 registered voters, for a period of a minimum
185 of 2 hours each day; (ii) for municipalities with 5,000 or more registered voters but fewer than
186 20,000 registered voters, for a period of a minimum of 4 hours each day; (iii) for municipalities
187 with 20,000 or more registered voters but fewer than 40,000 registered voters, for a period of a
188 minimum of 5 hours each day; (iv) for municipalities with 40,000 or more registered voters but
189 fewer than 75,000 registered voters, for a period of a minimum of 6 hours each day; and (v) for
190 municipalities with 75,000 or more registered voters, for a period of a minimum of 8 hours each
191 day. For each other day during the early voting period, early voting shall be conducted during the
192 usual business hours of each city or town clerk. A city or town may, in its discretion, provide for
193 additional early voting hours beyond the hours required by this paragraph.

194 (d)(1) Each city and town shall establish an early voting site for the primary election and
195 an early voting site for the general election that shall include the election office for the city or
196 town; provided, however, that if the city or town determines that the office is unavailable or
197 unsuitable for early voting in either the primary election or general election, the registrars of each
198 city or town shall identify and provide for an alternative centrally-located, suitable and
199 convenient public building within that city or town as an early voting site. A city or town may
200 also provide for additional early voting sites for the primary election or general election at the
201 discretion of the registrars for that city or town. Each early voting site shall be accessible to
202 persons with disabilities in accordance with federal law.

203 (2) The designation of early voting sites for the primary election shall be made not later
204 than August 7, 2020. Not later than August 14, 2020, and at least once during the voting period,
205 the registrars for each city or town shall post the location of the early voting sites as well as the
206 applicable dates and hours. Notice shall be conspicuously posted: (i) in the office of the city or

207 town clerk or on the principal official bulletin board of each city or town; (ii) on any other public
208 building considered necessary; (iii) on the city or town's website, if any; and (iv) on the website
209 of the state secretary.

210 (3) The designation of early voting sites for the general election shall be made not later
211 than October 2, 2020. Not later than October 9, 2020, and at least once during the voting period,
212 the registrars for each city or town shall post the location of the early voting sites as well as the
213 applicable dates and hours. Notice shall be conspicuously posted: (i) in the office of the city or
214 town clerk or on the principal official bulletin board of each city or town; (ii) on any other public
215 building considered necessary; (iii) on the city or town's website, if any; and (iv) on the website
216 of the state secretary.

217 (e) A qualified voter voting early in person shall be provided with a ballot and an
218 envelope where the ballot is placed after voting which contains an affidavit of compliance to be
219 filled out by the voter. A qualified voter voting early in person shall complete an affidavit under
220 the regulations promulgated pursuant to this act, which shall include a notice of penalties under
221 section 26 of chapter 56 of the General Laws.

222 (f) Prior to the beginning of early voting, the registrars for each city or town shall prepare
223 a list for the early voting sites, containing the names and residences of all persons qualified to
224 vote at each voting site, as the names and residences appear upon the annual register, and shall
225 reasonably transmit the applicable list to the election officers at each early voting site designated
226 by the registrars.

227 (g) The registrar or presiding official at the early voting site shall cause to be placed on
228 the voting lists opposite the name of a qualified voter who participates in early voting the letters
229 “EV” designating an early voter.

230 (h) The registrars shall prepare lists of all voters casting ballots pursuant to this section or
231 section 6 during the early voting period and update the voter list in a manner prescribed by the
232 state secretary.

233 (i) A city or town may opt to detail a sufficient number of police officers or constables
234 for each early voting site for the primary election at the expense of the city or town to preserve
235 order, protect the election officers and supervisors from any interference with their duties and aid
236 in enforcing the laws relating to elections.

237 (j)(1) The absentee or early ballot of any voter who was eligible to vote at the time the
238 ballot was cast shall not be deemed invalid solely because the voter became ineligible to vote by
239 reason by death after casting the ballot. For the purposes of this section, "cast" shall mean that
240 the voter has deposited the absentee or early ballot in the mail for ballots mailed, returned to the
241 appropriate election official either by hand or by depositing in the municipal drop box, where
242 available, or completed voting in person at the clerk’s office or an early voting location.

243 (2) Section 100 of chapter 54 of the General Laws shall not apply to the primary election
244 or general election or any other municipal election held at the same time.

245 (k) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, any absent ballot cast
246 pursuant to section 86 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any early voting ballot cast pursuant
247 to this section or section 6 may be deposited into a tabulator or a ballot box in a municipality or
248 precinct that uses paper ballots, in advance of the date of the primary or the general election. All

249 ballots received pursuant to this section or section 6 may be opened in advance of the date of the
250 primary or the general election, in accordance with regulations promulgated by the state
251 secretary; provided, that such ballots shall be kept secured, locked and unexamined, and that no
252 results shall be determined or announced until after the time polls close on the date of the
253 primary or the general election. Disclosing any such result before such time shall be punished as
254 a violation of section 14 of said chapter 56. Not later than August 1, 2020, the state secretary
255 shall promulgate emergency regulations regarding the advance depositing of ballots.

256 SECTION 8. (a) Not later than August 3, 2020, the state secretary shall deliver to each
257 city or town, in quantities as the state secretary determines necessary, the following papers: (i)
258 official absentee and early voting ballots for the primary election, similar to the official ballot to
259 be used at the primary election; provided, however, that a sufficient quantity of such ballots are
260 printed in the languages necessary to accommodate the selection of a bilingual ballot by voters
261 pursuant to paragraph 5 of subsection (d) of section 6; (ii) envelopes of sufficient size to contain
262 the ballots specified in clause (i) bearing on their reverse the voter's affidavit in compliance with
263 the requirements of subsection (j) of section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws; (iii) return
264 envelopes for any ballot requested for voting by mail pre-addressed to the local election official
265 with postage guaranteed; and (iv) instructions for voting by mail to be sent to each voter who
266 requests to cast a ballot by mail.

267 (b) Not later than October 9, 2020, the state secretary shall deliver to each city or town, in
268 quantities as the state secretary determines necessary, the following papers: (i) official absentee
269 and early voting ballots, for the general election, similar to the official ballot to be used at the
270 general election; provided, however, that a sufficient quantity of such ballots are printed in the
271 languages necessary to accommodate the selection of a bilingual ballot by voters pursuant to

272 paragraph 5 of subsection (d) of section 6; (ii) envelopes of sufficient size to contain the ballots
273 specified in clause (i) bearing on their reverse the voter's affidavit in compliance with the
274 requirements of subsection (j) of said section 25B of said chapter 54; (iii) return envelopes for
275 any ballot requested for voting by mail pre-addressed to the local election official with postage
276 guaranteed; and (iv) instructions for voting by mail to be sent to each voter who requests to cast a
277 ballot by mail.

278 SECTION 9. (a) Sections 37 and 38 of chapter 53 of the General Laws shall apply to
279 unenrolled voters and voters enrolled in political designations voting early in the primary
280 election. The registrar or presiding official at the early voting site shall cause the name of the
281 party of the ballot being voted to be recorded on the voting list. Once the party selection has been
282 recorded on the voting list, a voter cannot request or vote on the ballot of another party.

283 (b) The counting of early voting ballots including, but not limited to, informing election
284 officers and any challengers present under section 85A of chapter 54 of the General Laws shall
285 be set by 950 C.M.R. § 47.00, so far as applicable. All envelopes referred to in this section shall
286 be retained with the ballots cast at the primary election and shall be preserved and destroyed in
287 the manner provided by law for the retention, preservation or destruction of official ballots.

288 (c) The provisions of 950 C.M.R. § 47.00 shall apply to early voting at the primary
289 election to the extent feasible; provided, however, that the state secretary shall promulgate rules
290 to accommodate the dates set forth herein.

291 SECTION 10. Notwithstanding section 25B of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any
292 other general or special law to the contrary, the election officers and registrars of every city or

293 town shall allow any qualified voter to vote early by mail for any city or town election held on or
294 before December 31, 2020.

295 SECTION 11. Notwithstanding section 24 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other
296 general or special law to the contrary, the select board, board of selectmen, town council or city
297 council may, by recorded and public vote, change any polling place to be used at the primary
298 election or the general election at least 20 days prior to the date of the primary election or general
299 election if it is determined that the public convenience or public health would be better served. If
300 the select board, board of selectmen, or town council determines that the public convenience or
301 public health would be better served, they may house all polling places in a single building
302 within the municipality, if such building is suitably equipped; provided, however, that alcoholic
303 beverages shall not be served or consumed in that portion of a building used as a polling place,
304 during voting hours or while ballots are being counted therein. In cities, the city council may
305 designate polling places in non-adjacent precincts if they determine the public convenience or
306 public health would be better served. The select board, board of selectmen, town council or city
307 council shall find that the public convenience or public health would be better served by a
308 change in a polling place only if: (i) election officials made substantial efforts to recruit poll
309 workers to adequately staff all polling places and were unable to do so, or the change is
310 necessary to enable voters or poll workers to engage in physical distancing as required to protect
311 public health; and (ii) doing so would not have a disparate adverse impact on access to the polls
312 on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age. When the polling places have been
313 designated pursuant to this section, the board of registrars shall post on the municipal website
314 and at other such places as it may determine, a description of the polling places and shall notify
315 voters by using an electronic means, to the extent available, such as via email or reverse 911 call.

316 SECTION 12. Notwithstanding section 29 of chapter 53 of the General Laws and
317 sections 11, 11B, 12 and 13 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other general or special
318 law to the contrary, for the primary election and general election, if the city or town clerk
319 determines in writing that there is a deficiency in the number of required election officers, then
320 the appointing authority may appoint election officers without regard to political party
321 membership, voter status, residence in the city or town or inclusion on a list filed by a political
322 party committee pursuant to said sections 11B and 12 of said chapter 54. If the position of the
323 warden, clerk or inspector, or the deputy of any such officer, if any, is vacant within the 3 weeks
324 preceding the primary or general election, the city or town clerk may appoint a person to fill the
325 vacancy with a competent person willing to serve and without regard to political party
326 membership, voter status, residence in the city or town or inclusion on a list filed by a political
327 party committee pursuant to said sections 11B and 12 of said chapter 54.

328 SECTION 13. Notwithstanding sections 67 and 83 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or
329 any other general or special law to the contrary, for the primary election and general election, the
330 city or town clerk may eliminate the requirement that a voter provide their name or residence to
331 an election officer at the ballot box and that the election officer mark the name off a voting list
332 before the voter may deposit the ballot in the ballot box.

333 SECTION 14. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the state
334 secretary shall implement a system to allow a qualified voter to request an early or absentee
335 ballot on the state secretary's website, to be mailed to the qualified voter's home address or a
336 different mailing address as designated by the voter. The system shall not require the voter's
337 signature. The system shall apply to the November 3, 2020 general election, and, if feasible, to

338 the September 1, 2020 state primaries, and shall in any event be operational not later than
339 October 1, 2020.

340 SECTION 15. For an election held on or before December 31, 2020, any person taking
341 precaution related to COVID-19 in response to a declared state of emergency or from guidance
342 from a medical professional, local or state health official or any civil authority shall be deemed
343 to be unable by reason of physical disability to cast their vote in person at a polling location.

344 SECTION 16. Notwithstanding sections 25B and 89 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or
345 any other general or special law to the contrary, applications for early and absentee ballots for all
346 elections held on or before December 31, 2020 shall be acceptable if they are signed or
347 submitted electronically; provided, that any electronic signature shall be written in substantially
348 the same manner as a handwritten signature.

349 SECTION 17. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary,
350 subsection (c) of section 91B of chapter 54 of the General Laws shall apply to voters who have
351 been instructed by a medical professional or a local or state health official to self-quarantine in
352 their home beginning after noon on the seventh day before the any election held on or before
353 December 31, 2020.

354 SECTION 18. Notwithstanding sections 26 and 28 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or
355 any other general or special law to the contrary, the last day to register to vote for any election
356 taking place on or before December 31, 2020 shall be 10 days before the date of such election;
357 provided, that the board of registrars shall hold a registration session on that date not less than
358 from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The voting list to be used for any
359 such election shall include all eligible voters registered as of that date.

360 SECTION 19. The state secretary shall promulgate emergency regulations for the
361 administration and enforcement of this act including, after consulting with the commissioner of
362 the department of public health, regulations requiring public health safeguards at early voting
363 sites and polling places, including required distancing of voters and election officers, frequent
364 use of sanitizers, personal protective equipment and use of marking pens.

365 SECTION 20. Not later than July 15, 2020, the state secretary shall: (i) promulgate
366 regulations for electronic poll books required by section 33I of chapter 54 of the General Laws;
367 and (ii) certify 1 or more types of electronic poll books in time to be used in the 2020 state
368 primary and the general elections, and all future elections, under said section 33I of said chapter
369 54.

370 SECTION 21. The state secretary shall report to the senate and house committee on ways
371 and means and the joint committee on election laws not later than July 1, 2021 on the costs to
372 implement this act, including, but not limited to: (i) the number of ballot applications with
373 postage guaranteed mailed to voters; (ii) the number of ballot applications with postage
374 guaranteed returned requesting a ballot; (iii) the total number of ballots cast by mail; and (iv)
375 total cost and amounts paid for using federal funds.

376 SECTION 22. The state secretary shall report to the senate and house committee on ways
377 and means and the joint committee on election laws not later than 6 months after the enactment
378 of this act on how the state secretary can make voting more accessible for voters with
379 disabilities, specifically through online voting options.

380 SECTION 23. Section 109A of chapter 54 of the General Laws shall apply to ballots cast
381 in the November 3, 2020 general election.

382 SECTION 24. The state secretary shall conduct a public awareness campaign to inform
383 voters throughout the commonwealth of the provisions of this act, including, but not limited to,
384 measures to promote public awareness of expanded early voting options in the 2020 primary and
385 general elections and the requirements and procedures for early voting by mail, including, but
386 not limited to, information related to the ability of a voter who requests but does not return an
387 early voting by mail ballot to vote in person on election day.