

SENATE No. 3122

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

—
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**
—

SENATE, October 3, 2022.

The committee on Senate Ways and Means to whom was referred the House Bill relative to the preparation of certain bilingual ballots in the city of Malden (House, No. 4793); reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the text of Senate document numbered 3122.

For the committee,
Michael J. Rodrigues

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1 SECTION 1. As used in this act, the following words shall have the following meanings
2 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

3 “Board”, the board of registrar of voters in the city of Malden.

4 “City”, the city of Malden.

5 “Election”, the choice by the voters of any public officer and to the taking of a vote upon
6 any question by law submitted to the voters in the city of Malden.

7 “Transliteration”, translation into the relevant Chinese characters to represent the
8 phonetic equivalent of the syllables of an English name or a name in a language that is not
9 traditionally written using Chinese characters.

10 SECTION 2. Notwithstanding section 40 of chapter 54 of the General Laws or any other
11 general or special law to the contrary, for any federal or state election, the state secretary shall
12 prepare and deliver bilingual ballots in English and Chinese in addition to any other bilingual
13 ballots required by law to the City.

14 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the charter of the city or any general or special law to the
15 contrary, for any city preliminary or final election, the board shall prepare bilingual ballots in

16 English and Chinese in addition to any other bilingual ballots required by law to be provided in
17 the designated polling places within the city.

18 SECTION 4. Ballots prepared in accordance with sections 2 and 3 of this act shall
19 include transliteration of the candidates' names. For any city preliminary or final election the
20 board shall provide for the transliteration of all candidates' names for bilingual ballots in English
21 and Chinese. For each federal or state election, the board shall provide the transliteration of the
22 candidates' names for district and county offices to the state secretary for inclusion on ballots
23 prepared under section 2. Each candidate shall be provided with a written copy of the proposed
24 transliteration of that candidate's name.

25 Not later than 7 days after receiving the proposed transliteration of the candidate's name,
26 the candidate may provide written notice to the board of any modification of the proposed
27 transliteration of a candidate's own name or decline to have the candidate's own name
28 transliterated on the ballot.

29 The transliteration shall be subject to final approval by the board or the state secretary, as
30 the case may be. The board or the state secretary, as the case may be, shall provide public notice
31 of transliterated names as soon as practicable.

32 SECTION 5. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the city, for any
33 primary or election, shall be responsible for the cost of transliteration and the state secretary shall
34 be responsible only for the production of ballots for state primaries and elections as required by
35 law.