

SENATE No. 478

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Jason M. Lewis, (BY REQUEST)

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 for political party endorsement reform.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Vincent Lawrence Dixon

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*60 Lake Street – Unit N Winchester, Mass.
01890*

SENATE No. 478

By Mr. Lewis (by request), a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 478) of Vincent Lawrence Dixon for legislation for political party endorsement reform. Election Laws.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 411 OF 2019-2020.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act for political party endorsement reform.

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. The Massachusetts General Laws are hereby amended by inserting the
2 following new chapter:

3 Chapter 57A. Political Party Endorsement

4 Section 1. An Act to permit certain political party organizational reforms, by allowing a
5 cross-endorsement process, by which more than one political party, may endorse the
6 same

7 candidate, and all votes cast for that candidate, may be totaled for that particular
8 individual.

9 Section 2. Over many years, significant numbers of individuals have desired a greater

10 range of choices for electing public officials, during election periods. This legislation
11 seeks to
12 recognize that an additional choice would be provided, by permitting coalitions of
13 different
14 political designations, and parties, to support, and/or not support, various candidates.

15 Section 3. Present Massachusetts law requires independent, individual candidates by each
16 political party, and/or independent persons. Votes presently, cannot be counted for a
17 single
18 individual, summed in total. In so doing, political choices are limited to certain
19 definitions, that
20 limit the ability of coalitions to form, that would improve voter choices.

21 Section 4. Other states have similar provisions, and have apparently found them to be
22 useful, and appropriate.

23 Section 5. The Massachusetts Secretary of State, and its Elections Division, being the
24 relevant regulator, and supervisor of elections in Massachusetts, is hereby empowered to
25 establish appropriate regulations, by which all recognized political parties, may cross-
26 endorse
27 candidates of other parties, by their particular legal political process.