HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 4333 FILED ON: 3/29/2012

HOUSE . . . . . No. 4020

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Aaron Michlewitz

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 passage of the accompanying:

An Act amending the preparation of certain ballots in the city of Boston.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Aaron Michlewitz	*3rd Suffolk*

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HOUSE . . . . . No. 4020

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4020) of Aaron Michlewitz (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to amend the preparation of certain ballots in the city of Boston. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Twelve

An Act amending the preparation of certain ballots in the city of Boston.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby amended by striking out the following definitions:

"Chinese surname," a surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of Chinese surnames.

"Vietnamese surname," a surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of Vietnamese surnames.

SECTION 2. Said section 1 of chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby further amended by striking out the following: "Transliteration," the printing of relevant Chinese characters to represent the phonetic equivalent of the syllables of an English name or a name in a language that is not traditionally written using Chinese characters," and inserting in place thereof the following words:-

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

SECTION 3. Said chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby further amended by striking out section 4 and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

18 Section 4. Bilingual ballots in English and Chinese and in English and Vietnamese shall
19 be provided in each polling place in the city where more than five percent (5%) of citizens of
20 voting age in the precinct are members of that language minority and are limited-English
21 proficient, as determined by the Board, or where the substantial need for such ballots is
22 determined by the Board, taking into account objective data obtained from the most recent
23 federal census, city records concerning utilization of or requests for bilingual ballots, and any
24 other demographic information available to the Board, including the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum
25 list of surnames. The Board's determination must be made in recognition of its duty under this
26 act to provide the necessary voter assistance to the city's Chinese and Vietnamese speaking
27 communities. The Board shall determine the number of ballots to be provided in each polling
28 place in the city and shall inform the state secretary of the number of the ballots needed prior to
29 each federal and state election by a date specified by the state secretary. Thirty (30) days prior to
30 any primary or election, the Board shall inform the city's Election Advisory Committee and any
31 other bona fide non-profit agency or advocacy organization serving the relevant linguistic
32 minority community that has registered with the Board for notification, of the numbers of
33 bilingual ballots and the precincts in which they shall be available.

34 SECTION 4. Said chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby further amended by striking
35 out sections 8 and 9, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

36 Section 8. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the city in any
37 primary or election shall be responsible for the cost of transliteration and the secretary of the
38 commonwealth shall be responsible for all other costs including, without limitation, the
39 production of ballots, resulting from implementation of this act.

40 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.