

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING OF BALLOTS AT ELECTIONS.

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. No person shall print any ballot for use at any election for the choice of any national, state, district, county, city or town officers, or shall distribute at any such election, any printed ballot, containing the names of more than three candidates, unless the same are of plain white paper, and in weight not less than that of ordinary printing paper, and are not more than five nor less than four and a half inches in width, and are not more than twelve and a half nor less than eleven and a half inches in length, and unless the same are printed with black ink on one side of the paper only and contain no printing, engraving, device, or mark of any kind upon the back of the ballot. The names of candidates shall be printed at right angles with the length of the ballot, in capital letters not less than one-eighth nor more than one-quarter of an inch in height; and no name of any person appearing upon any ballot as a candidate for any office shall be repeated thereon with respect to the same office. Nothing herein contained shall authorize the refusal to receive or count any ballot for any want of conformity with the requirements of this act.

SECTION 2. Any person or persons offending against any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof before any court of competent jurisdiction be fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, or imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding sixty days.

SECTION 3. Chapter two hundred and eighty-six of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-nine is hereby repealed: *provided*, nothing herein contained shall affect any prosecutions or proceedings had or begun prior to the date upon which this act takes effect.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 11, 1880.

Passed to be enacted.

CHARLES J. NOYES, *Speaker*.

IN SENATE, March 12, 1880.

Passed to be enacted.

ROBERT R. BISHOP, *President*.

March, 12, 1880.

Approved: JOHN D. LONG.

SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, March 13, 1880.

A true copy:

Attest:

HENRY B. PEIRCE,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.