

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 616**

**[LOCAL APPROVAL RECEIVED.]**

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 bill:

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Aaron Michlewitz*

*3rd Suffolk*

*Carlo Basile*

*1st Suffolk*

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 616**

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 616) of Aaron Michlewitz and Carlo Basile (with the approval of the mayor and city council) relative to providing bilingual ballots at certain polling places in the city of Boston. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the Year Two Thousand Thirteen**

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:*

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

3 “Chinese surname,” a surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of  
4 Chinese surnames.

5 “Vietnamese surname,” a surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list  
6 of Vietnamese surnames.

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

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

16 SECTION 3. Said chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby further amended by striking  
17 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.

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