

HOUSE No. 653

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Robert M. Koczera

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 relative to the joint election of the governor and lieutenant governor.

PETITION OF:

| NAME: | DISTRICT/ADDRESS: |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Robert M. Koczera | 11th Bristol |
| Cleon H. Turner | 1st Barnstable |
| Jay R. Kaufman | 15th Middlesex |
| Mary E. Grant | 6th Essex |
| Paul McMurtry | 11th Norfolk |
| Michael F. Rush | 10th Suffolk |

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 673 OF 2007-2008.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand and Nine
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AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE JOINT ELECTION OF THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

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 41A of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is
2 hereby amended by inserting the following before the first paragraph:-

3 Each candidate who shall seek a nomination for governor, under any method provided by law for such nomination,
4 including primary elections, shall within seven days of qualifying for the primary election at the state nominating
5 convention designate a candidate for lieutenant governor, and the names of the said candidate for governor and
6 lieutenant governor shall be listed on the primary election ballot or otherwise considered for nomination jointly with
7 each other. No candidate for governor may designate a candidate for lieutenant governor to contest for the said
8 offices jointly with him without the consent of the said candidate for lieutenant governor, and no candidate for
9 lieutenant governor may designate a candidate for governor, to contest jointly for said offices with him without the
10 consent of the said candidate for governor, said consent to be in writing of a form provided for such purpose and
11 filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In any election, including a primary election, candidates for
12 governor and lieutenant governor shall be listed jointly on the ballot, and a vote cast for the candidate for governor
13 shall also be cast for lieutenant governor jointly listed on the ballot with him, and the election of governor, or the
14 nomination of a candidate for governor, also shall constitute the election for the same term, or the nomination, of the
15 lieutenant governor who was listed on the ballot or was being considered jointly with him.

16 SECTION 2. Section 34 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby
17 amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

18 The surnames of candidates for governor and lieutenant governor shall be placed upon the state primary ballot in
19 groups, first names, residential addresses, and the eight-word statement provided by section 45 shall not be added.
20 A voter shall vote for such candidates in the manner provided by the last sentence of section 78 of chapter 54. The
21 group in which appears the name of the incumbent governor shall be placed first, and the remaining groups shall
22 follow in alphabetical order of the surnames of the candidates for governor.

23 SECTION 3. Section 45 of said chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby
24 amended by striking out the fourth paragraph beginning in line 16 and inserting in place thereof the following
25 paragraph:-

26 A state primary nomination paper for governor or lieutenant governor shall contain the names of candidates for both
27 such offices. Otherwise, no nomination paper for use in the nomination of candidates to be voted for at state
28 primaries shall contain the name of more than one candidate.

29 SECTION 4. Section 48 of chapter 53 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, in line 14, is
30 hereby amended by striking out the words “governor, lieutenant governor”, and inserting the following:- governor
31 and lieutenant governor as a group.

32 SECTION 5. Section 43A of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby
33 amended in line 5 by striking out the words “at a state election”.

34 SECTION 6. Chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
35 inserting after section 5B, the following new section:-

36 Section 5C. Candidates campaigning as a team for the office of governor and lieutenant governor in the primary and
37 general election may organize a joint committee which shall have all the powers and duties of a political committee
38 under the provisions of this chapter.