

HOUSE No. 673

By Mr. Koczera of New Bedford, petition of Robert M. Koczera and others relative to the joint election of the governor and lieutenant governor. Election Laws.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Robert M. Koczera
Jay R. Kaufman

Douglas W. Petersen
William Smitty Pignatelli

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

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
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting the following before the first paragraph:—
4 Each candidate who shall seek a nomination for governor, under
5 any method provided by law for such nomination, including primary
6 elections, shall within seven days of qualifying for the primary elec-
7 tion at the state nominating convention designate a candidate for
8 lieutenant governor, and the names of the said candidate for gov-
9 ernor and lieutenant governor shall be listed on the primary election
10 ballot or otherwise considered for nomination jointly with each
11 other. No candidate for governor may designate a candidate for lieu-
12 tenant governor to contest for the said offices jointly with him
13 without the consent of the said candidate for lieutenant governor,
14 and no candidate for lieutenant governor may designate a candidate
15 for governor, to contest jointly for said offices with him without the
16 consent of the said candidate for governor, said consent to be in
17 writing of a form provided for such purpose and filed with the Sec-
18 retary of the Commonwealth. In any election, including a primary
19 election, candidates for governor and lieutenant governor shall be

20 listed jointly on the ballot, and a vote cast for the candidate for gov-
21 ernor shall also be cast for lieutenant governor jointly listed on the
22 ballot with him, and the election of governor, or the nomination of a
23 candidate for governor, also shall constitute the election for the same
24 term, or the nomination, of the lieutenant governor who was listed
25 on the ballot or was being considered jointly with him.

1 SECTION 2. Section 34 of Chapter 53 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:—

4 The surnames of candidates for governor and lieutenant governor
5 shall be placed upon the state primary ballot in groups, first names,
6 residential addresses, and the eight-word statement provided by
7 Section 45 shall not be added. A voter shall vote for such candidates
8 in the manner provided by the last sentence of Section 78 of Chapter
9 54. The group in which appears the name of the incumbent governor
10 shall be placed first, and the remaining groups shall follow in alpha-
11 betical order of the surnames of the candidates for governor.

1 SECTION 3. Section 45 of said Chapter 53 of the General Laws,
2 as appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the fourth paragraph beginning in line 16 and inserting
4 in place thereof the following paragraph:—

5 A state primary nomination paper for governor or lieutenant gov-
6 ernor shall contain the names of candidates for both such offices.
7 Otherwise, no nomination paper for use in the nomination of candi-
8 dates to be voted for at state primaries shall contain the name of
9 more than one candidate.

1 SECTION 4. Section 48 of Chapter 53 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 1998 Official Edition, in line 14, is hereby amended
3 by striking out the words “governor, lieutenant governor”, and
4 inserting the following:— governor and lieutenant governor as a
5 group.

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

1 SECTION 6. Chapter 55 of the General Laws, as appearing in the
2 1998 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after section
3 5B, the following new section:—
4 Section 5C. Candidates campaigning as a team for the office of
5 governor and lieutenant governor in the primary and general election
6 may organize a joint committee which shall have all the powers and
7 duties of a political committee under the provisions of this chapter.