

HOUSE No. 5121

Substituted by the House, on motion of Mr. Bradley of Hingham, for a Bill relative to specially qualified voters (House, No. 688). October 24, 2008.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

AN ACT EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR VOTER RESIDENCY.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith for voting for the
3 citizens of the Commonwealth who have moved within the Com-
4 monwealth and not re-registered, therefore it is hereby declared to
5 be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of
6 the public convenience.

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 51 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the
4 following sentence:—
5 No person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state offi-
6 cers shall, by reason of a change of residence within the Common-
7 wealth, be disqualified from voting for national officers and
8 statewide ballot questions in the city or town from which he has
9 removed his residence until the expiration of 18 months from such
10 removal.

1 SECTION 2. Section 1 of Chapter 51 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
3 striking out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof the
4 following sentence:—
5 No person otherwise qualified to vote for national or state offi-
6 cers shall by reason of a change of residence within the Common-
7 wealth, be disqualified from voting for such national or state

8 officers in the city or town from which he has removed his resi-
9 dence until the expiration of 6 months from such removal.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1 is hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 4. Sections 2 and 3 shall take effect on
2 November 5, 2008.