

HOUSE No. 04020

[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:

Aaron Michlewitz

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

3rd Suffolk

HOUSE No. 04020

By Mr. Michlewitz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 4020) of Aaron Michlewitz (with the approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation to amend the preparation of certain ballots in the city of Boston. Election Laws. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Twelve
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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 out the
2 following definitions:

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

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

7

8 SECTION 2. Said section 1 of chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby further amended by
9 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 phonetic
14 equivalent of the syllables of an English name or a name in a language that is not traditionally
15 written using Chinese characters.

16 SECTION 3. Said chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby further amended by striking out
17 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 be
19 provided in each polling place in the city where more than five percent (5%) of citizens of voting
20 age in the precinct are members of that language minority and are limited-English proficient, as
21 determined by the Board, or where the substantial need for such ballots is determined by the
22 Board, taking into account objective data obtained from the most recent federal census, city
23 records concerning utilization of or requests for bilingual ballots, and any other demographic
24 information available to the Board, including the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of surnames.
25 The Board’s determination must be made in recognition of its duty under this act to provide the
26 necessary voter assistance to the city’s Chinese and Vietnamese speaking communities. The
27 Board shall determine the number of ballots to be provided in each polling place in the city and
28 shall inform the state secretary of the number of the ballots needed prior to each federal and state
29 election by a date specified by the state secretary. Thirty (30) days prior to any primary or
30 election, the Board shall inform the city’s Election Advisory Committee and any other bona fide
31 non-profit agency or advocacy organization serving the relevant linguistic minority community

32 that has registered with the Board for notification, of the numbers of bilingual ballots and the
33 precincts in which they shall be available.

34 SECTION 4. Said chapter 201 of the acts of 2010 is hereby further amended by striking out
35 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 primary or
37 election shall be responsible for the cost of transliteration and the secretary of the commonwealth
38 shall be responsible for all other costs including, without limitation, the production of ballots,
39 resulting from implementation of this act.

40 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.