SENATE DOCKET, NO. FILED ON: 1/14/2009

**SENATE . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No.**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

**Sonia Chang-Díaz**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*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 Preparation of Certain Ballots in the City of Boston.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PETITION OF:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: | District/Address: |
| Sonia Chang-Díaz | Second Suffolk |

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In the Year Two Thousand and Nine**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

An Act Relative to 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:*

*BE IT* *ORDERED,* voted, to petition the General Court to enact legislation that provides that in all federal, state and City of Boston preliminary or final elections the state secretary and City of Boston Election Commissioner shall prepare bilingual ballots in English and Chinese, and English and Vietnamese, and provide for the transliteration of all candidates’ names for English-Chinese bilingual ballots; provided, that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition.

*SECTION 1. Definitions*

As used in this act*,* the following words shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

*Chinese surname* means any surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of Chinese surnames.

*City* means the City of Boston.

*Election* shall mean any election, as defined by section 1 of chapter 50 of the General Laws.

*Transliteration* means the printing of relevant Chinese characters to represent the phonetic equivalent of the syllables of an English name or a name in any other language that is not traditionally written using Chinese characters.

*State election* shall mean any election at which a national, state, or county officer or a regional district school committee member elected district-wide is to be chosen by the voters, whether for a full term or for the filling of a vacancy.

*Vietnamese surname* means any surname which appears on the Lauderdale and Kestenbaum list of Vietnamese surnames.