

*Chap. 516* AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITIES OF WALTHAM, SPRINGFIELD AND MEDFORD TO ESTABLISH BOARDS OF RECREATION.

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

Boards of recreation may be established.

SECTION 1. The cities of Waltham, Springfield and Medford may establish boards of recreation composed of five persons.

Members, appointment, terms, etc.

SECTION 2. Said boards of recreation shall consist of a member of the park commission, or of the department having control of the parks, a member of the school committee, and three other citizens; the members shall be appointed by the mayor to serve, one for one year, two for two years, and two for three years; their successors to be appointed for three years or they shall be selected by such other method as said cities may prescribe.

Officers, rules, etc.

SECTION 3. The members of said boards of recreation shall serve without compensation, and shall elect a chairman from their own number, a secretary, who shall be its executive officer, and other necessary officers, to serve for one year, or until their successors are elected. Said boards of recreation shall have power to adopt rules of procedure, fix the pay of their employees and prescribe regulations for the conduct of all business within their jurisdiction. A majority of the membership of the board shall constitute a quorum. Said cities shall appropriate annually the funds necessary for the maintenance and operation of said departments, and from time to time such additional funds as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

Quorum.

Powers, duties, etc.

SECTION 4. Said boards of recreation shall have power to organize, manage and supervise the various playgrounds, recreation centers, municipal gymnasiums, municipal floating baths, bathing grounds, bath houses and other facilities for recreation of which they may be given charge, as provided in sections five, six, seven and eight; and to plan and recommend by regular reports to the city government, and after appropriate action by ordinance to create and develop an adequate and complete system of playgrounds and recreation centers and related activities and to employ supervisors, instructors and other necessary subordinates.

Charge of parks, playgrounds, etc., may be transferred to boards.

SECTION 5. Said cities may, upon the creation of the boards of recreation, from time to time thereafter transfer to the charge of said boards of recreation any parks, park-

ways, grounds, playgrounds, buildings or other properties adaptable for recreation purposes, or portions of such parks, parkways, grounds, buildings or other properties.

SECTION 6. Said boards of recreation may, on their own initiative, take charge of any grounds, with buildings thereon erected, the use of which is offered to them temporarily by individuals or corporations, for the purpose of using such grounds for public playgrounds and recreation activities, and may co-operate with and promote by advice, suggestion and otherwise, such voluntary or amateur organizations for recreation, entertainment or mutual improvement as meet their approval.

Further powers of boards.

SECTION 7. Said boards of recreation may assume the charge of school playgrounds and of school buildings, or any part thereof used for recreation centers, if so requested by resolution of the school committee.

May assume charge of school playgrounds, etc.

SECTION 8. By authorization of the board of aldermen said boards of recreation shall have charge of provisions for winter sports on streets or bodies of water, and for the observance of holidays, may disburse funds appropriated therefor, and may have supervision of dance halls, moving picture shows and other forms of commercial recreation, and may make recommendations to the licensing authority or authorities.

Shall have charge of winter sports, etc., if authorized by board of aldermen.

SECTION 9. This act shall not limit or affect in any way the authority heretofore conferred by law upon any commission to lay out and improve any public park in said cities now under the control of such commission, nor shall it restrict in any way the full discretion of any commission in the execution of any trust created by deed or will. Any such commission may delegate to said boards of recreation, and said boards of recreation may accept legal charge of any grounds or buildings under the control of such commission, to be used for playgrounds and recreation purposes.

This act not to limit authority of certain commissions.

SECTION 10. Said boards of recreation shall annually make a report of their proceedings during the preceding year to the mayor, with such recommendations for the development of playgrounds and recreation facilities, including additions thereto, as they may deem advisable.

Annual report.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect upon its acceptance by the boards of aldermen of said cities, with the approval of the mayors.

Time of taking effect.

*Approved May 12, 1914.*