

sions of section eighty-five of chapter one hundred and eleven of the General Laws shall apply to the raising, apportioning and collection thereof.

SECTION 3. This act shall take full effect upon its acceptance during the current year by the county commissioners of Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties, but not otherwise.

*Approved February 17, 1953.*

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM *Chap. 63*  
FOR THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 250 of the acts of 1883 is hereby amended by inserting after section 40 the following eight sections:—*Section 40A.* A petition conforming to the requirements hereinafter provided and requesting the city council to pass a measure, except an order granted under section seventy or seventy-one of chapter one hundred and sixty-four, or chapter one hundred and sixty-six of the General Laws, or requesting the school committee to pass a measure, therein set forth or designated, shall be termed an initiative petition, and shall be acted upon as hereinafter provided. In this and the seven following sections, "measure" shall mean an ordinance, resolution, order or vote passed by a city council, or a resolution, order or vote passed by a school committee, as the case may be.

*Section 40B.* Signatures to initiative petitions need not be all on one paper. All such papers pertaining to any one measure shall be fastened together and shall be filed in the office of the city clerk as one instrument, with the endorsement thereon of the names and addresses of three persons designated as filing the same. With each signature to the petition shall be stated the place of residence of the signer, giving the street and number, if any.

Within five days after the filing of said petition the registrars of voters shall ascertain by what number of registered voters the petition is signed, and what percentage that number is of the total number of registered voters, and shall attach thereto their certificate showing the result of such examination.

The city clerk shall forthwith transmit the said certificate with the said petition to the city council or to the school committee, according as the petition is addressed, and at the same time shall send a copy of said certificate to one or more of the persons designated on the petition as filing the same.

*Section 40C.* If any initiative petition is signed by registered voters equal in number to at least twenty per cent of the whole number of registered voters, the city council or the school committee shall, within twenty days after the date of the certificate of the registrars to that effect:—

1. Pass said measure without alteration, subject to the referendum vote provided by this chapter; or

2. The city council shall call a special election to be held on a Tuesday fixed by it not less than thirty nor more than forty-five days after the date of the certificate hereinbefore mentioned, and shall submit the proposed measure without alteration to a vote of the registered voters of the city at that election; provided, that if any city election is otherwise to occur within ninety days after the date of said certificate, the city council may, at its discretion, omit calling the special election and submit the proposed measure to the voters at such approaching election.

*Section 40D.* If an initiative petition is signed by registered voters equal in number to at least eight per cent but less than twenty per cent of the total number of registered voters, and said measure be not passed without alteration within twenty days by the city council or the school committee, as provided in section forty C, such proposed measure, without alteration, shall be submitted by the city council to a vote of the registered voters of the city at the next regular municipal election. A measure proposed under this section or section forty C shall become effective if it shall be approved by registered voters of the city equal in number to one third of the whole number thereof and also by a majority of the voters voting on such measure, but not otherwise.

*Section 40E.* The ballots used when voting upon a proposed measure under section forty C or forty D, or a measure or part thereof protested against under section forty F, shall state the nature of the measure in terms sufficient to show the substance thereof.

*Section 40F.* If, within twenty days after the final passage of any measure, except a revenue loan order, by the city council or by the school committee, a petition signed by registered voters of the city, equal in number to at least twelve per cent of the total number of registered voters, is presented to the city council or to the school committee, as the case may be, protesting against such measure, or any part thereof, taking effect, the same shall thereupon and thereby be suspended from taking effect; and the city council or the school committee, as the case may be, shall immediately reconsider such measure or part thereof; and if such measure or part thereof is not entirely rescinded, the city council shall submit the same, by the method herein provided, to a vote of the registered voters of the city, either at the next regular city election, or at a special election which may, in its discretion, be called for the purpose, and such measure or part thereof shall forthwith become null and void unless a majority of the registered voters voting on the same at such election vote in favor thereof.

The petition described in this section shall be termed a referendum petition, and section forty B shall apply to the procedure in respect thereto, except that the words "measure or part thereof protested against" shall for this purpose be understood to replace "measure" in said section wherever it

may occur, and "referendum" shall be understood to replace the word "initiative" in said section.

*Section 40G.* The city council may, of its own motion, and shall, upon request of the school committee if a measure originates with that committee and pertains to the affairs under its administration, submit to a vote of the registered voters of the city for adoption or rejection at a general or special city election any proposed measure, or a proposition for the repeal or amendment of any measure, in the same manner and with the same force and effect as are hereby provided for submission on petition.

*Section 40H.* If two or more proposed measures passed at the same election contain conflicting provisions, the one receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall take effect.

SECTION 2. This act shall be submitted for acceptance to the qualified voters of the city of Northampton at the next regular city election in the form of the following question, which shall be placed upon the official ballot to be used at said election:—"Shall an act passed by the general court in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-three, entitled 'An Act providing for the Initiative and Referendum for the City of Northampton', be accepted by this city?" If a majority of the voters voting thereon vote in the affirmative in answer to said question, then this act shall take full effect, but not otherwise.

*Approved February 17, 1953.*

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR BULK SUM PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR SPECIFIC INJURY UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LAW.

*Chap. 64*

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

Section 36 of chapter 152 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 84 of the acts of 1952, is hereby further amended by adding at the end the following paragraph:—

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 152, § 36, etc., amended.

The weekly payments provided for in this section may at the discretion of the board or any member thereof be paid to the employee in a bulk sum. Nothing in this section shall adversely affect the employee's right to any compensation which is or may become due under the provisions of this or any other section.

Bulk sum payments for specific injuries, authorized.

*Approved February 17, 1953.*

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF WRENTHAM TO SUPPLY AND SELL WATER TO THE TOWN OF NORFOLK.

*Chap. 65*

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

The town of Wrentham may supply and sell water for domestic and other purposes to the town of Norfolk upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between said towns, or, in case of failure so to agree, upon such terms and conditions as may be fixed by the state department of