

CHAP. LXI.

An Act to establish a Fire Department in the town of Springfield.

SEC. 1. **BE** *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That the Fire Department of the town of Springfield shall hereafter consist of one Chief Engineer, and as many Assistant Engineers and Firewards, not exceeding fourteen, as the Selectmen of said town shall annually, on the first Wednesday in April, appoint, who shall hold their offices for one year from the first day of May next succeeding; also of as many Enginemen, Hosemen, and Hook and Ladder men, as the said Selectmen shall annually, on the first Wednesday in April, or as soon thereafter as may be, appoint: *Provided,* that the number of Enginemen shall not exceed forty two to every Hydraulion or Suction Engine, thirty to every common Engine, five to every Hose-carriage, and twenty five Hook and Ladder men.

Fire Department, of whom to consist.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the Selectmen of said town of Springfield be, and they are hereby authorized and required to fill any vacancies occurring in said Fire Department, to give certificates of appointment to the members thereof, and to fix and establish, from time to time, the powers and duties of the officers and members of said Fire Department respectively, in relation to Fire Engines, and all other fire apparatus belonging to, or used in said town, and the care and management thereof; and to fix and ordain rules and regulations for the conduct of said officers and members, and of the citizens present at fires, and to annex penalties for a breach thereof, not exceeding twenty dollars; which penalties may be sued for in

Selectmen authorized to fill vacancies, &c.

the name of the Treasurer of said town, in any Court proper to try the same: *Provided*, said rules and regulations shall not be binding and valid until the same shall be published in some newspaper printed in said town of Springfield. Proviso.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That the Chief Engineer, Engineers, and Firewards, so appointed, shall have the same powers and authorities relative to the pulling down or demolishing any house or other building, to prevent the spreading of fires, and relative to all other matters and things affecting the extinguishment or prevention of fires, or the commanding assistance at them, as Firewardens now by law have. And the said town of Springfield shall be liable to pay all such reasonable compensation for damage done by, or consequent upon, the acts or directions of said Chief Engineer, Engineers, and Firewardens, as other towns in this Commonwealth are liable to pay in like cases, for like acts and directions done or given by their Firewardens. And all fines and forfeitures arising within said town of Springfield, under the laws of this Commonwealth, relative to the extinguishment and prevention of, or proceedings at fires, shall be distributed in such manner, and applied to such uses as the said town shall ordain and direct. Powers of Chief Engineer, &c.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the members of said Fire Department shall be exempt from all military duty and service in the Militia, so long as they shall continue members thereof. And it shall be the duty of every person so exempted, to produce to the commanding officer of the company within whose bounds he resides, a certificate of his appointment, within twenty days from and after his appointment, and annually thereafter in the month of April. Exempt from military duty.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That any number of citizens of said town of Springfield, may, in writing, associate themselves into companies of Firemen, which companies may choose Clerks, and other needful officers, may establish by-laws, with Organization.

Proviso.

penalties for the breach thereof not exceeding five dollars: *Provided*, the same are not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth; which penalties may be sued for by the Clerks of said companies respectively, in any Court proper to try the same, and appropriated as said companies shall direct. And the said Firemen shall at all fires be under the direction and superintendence of the Chief Engineer, Engineers and Firewards.

Repeal.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That after the organization of said Fire Department, and notice thereof given by the Selectmen, in any newspaper printed in Springfield, all laws relating to the election or appointment of Firewards, so far as they affect the election or appointment of Firewards within said town of Springfield, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That the provisions of this act shall take effect, and be in force, as soon as the same shall be accepted by the citizens of said town, qualified to vote in town affairs, at a legal meeting held for that purpose, and shall continue in force until modified or repealed by the Legislature.

[Approved by the Governor, March 5, 1830.]