

**Chap.351** AN ACT FURTHER EXTENDING THE PROVISIONS OF ABSENT VOTING TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Emergency  
preamble.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to protect without delay residents of the commonwealth serving in or with the armed forces of the United States in the exercise of their right of suffrage, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

The provisions of chapter five hundred and thirty-one of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-eight, pertaining to absent voting by members of the armed forces of the United States, shall be applicable to (1) members of the armed forces of the United States serving as a component unit under the flag of the United Nations, and (2) members of the armed forces of the United States serving within or without the continental limits of the United States.

*Approved May 20, 1952.*

**Chap.352** AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE LAW RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

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

G. L. (Ter.  
Ed.), 210, § 3,  
etc., amended.

Adoption  
of children.

Chapter 210 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 3, as most recently amended by chapter 674 of the acts of 1951, and inserting in place thereof the following: — *Section 3.* The consent of the persons named in section two, other than the child or her husband, if any, shall not be required if the person to be adopted is of full age, nor shall the consent of any such person other than the child be required if such person is adjudged by the court hearing the petition to be hopelessly insane, or is imprisoned in any penal institution in this commonwealth under sentence for a term of which more than three years remain unexpired at the date of the petition; or if he has wilfully deserted or neglected to provide proper care and maintenance for such child for one year last preceding the date of the petition, and the foregoing provision shall be applicable to the father of the child and his consent shall not be required notwithstanding the absence of a court decree ordering said father to pay for the support of said child, and notwithstanding a court decree awarding custody of said child to its mother; or if he has suffered such child to be supported for more than one year continuously prior to the petition by an incorporated charitable institution or by a town or by the commonwealth; or if he has been sentenced to imprisonment for drunkenness upon a third conviction within one year and neglects to provide proper care and maintenance

for such child; or if such person has been convicted of being a common night walker or a lewd, wanton and lascivious person, and neglects to provide proper care and maintenance for such child. A giving up in writing of a child, for the purpose of adoption, to an incorporated charitable institution or the department of public welfare shall operate as a consent to any adoption subsequently approved by such institution or said department. Notice of the petition shall be given to the department of public welfare, if the child is supported by a town or by the commonwealth, and if the child is supported by a town, notice shall also be given to the board of public welfare thereof, and in Boston said notice shall be given both to the overseers of the public welfare in the city of Boston and to the institutions department.

Notice of petition.

*Approved May 21, 1952.*

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REIMBURSEMENT BY THE COMMONWEALTH TO COMBINATIONS OF CITIES AND TOWNS AND WELFARE DISTRICTS SO CALLED.

Chap. 353

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to make immediately effective certain changes in the law relating to reimbursement by the commonwealth in certain welfare cases, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Emergency preamble.

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

SECTION 1. Section 44 of chapter 117 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the words "eighteen A", in line 9, as appearing in chapter 476 of the acts of 1938, the words: — , one hundred and eighteen D.

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 117, § 44, etc., amended.

SECTION 2. Said chapter 117 is hereby further amended by striking out section 45, as amended by section 2 of chapter 293 of the acts of 1950, and inserting in place thereof the following section: — *Section 45.* Each public welfare district established under section forty-four shall certify to the commissioner of public welfare the amounts paid for the necessary expenses of administration. One third of the amounts allowed by said commissioner for such expenses of administration shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth to said district on or before the tenth day of March, June, September or December, whichever of such dates next follows such certification. The amount reimbursed under authority of this section may be expended by the district, without appropriation, for administration expenses of the district.

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 117, § 45, etc., amended.

Reimbursement by commonwealth of expenses of administration.

SECTION 3. Section 2 of chapter 118B of the General Laws, as appearing in section 7 of chapter 793 of the acts of 1950, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: — Except as provided in sections three to seven, inclusive, the board of public welfare of every city or town, for the purpose

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 118B, § 2, etc., amended.

Employment of certain