

able to conform with the sound level limitation of less than seventy-three decibels on the "A" scale at fifty feet.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect as of January the first, nineteen hundred and seventy-one.

*Approved July 22, 1971.*

**Chap. 552.** AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ROBERT RICHARD SHALL, NOTWITHSTANDING CERTAIN MAXIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS, BE ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FIRE FIGHTER IN THE TOWN OF BURLINGTON.

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

Notwithstanding any rule or law to the contrary regulating the maximum age of applicants for appointment as a fire fighter, Robert Richard shall be eligible to take the next open competitive examination for fire fighter in the town of Burlington and, provided he meets all other requirements, shall be eligible for certification and appointment as a fire fighter in said town.

*Approved July 22, 1971.*

**Chap. 553.** AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY THAT MAY BE HELD BY THE LOWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

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

Section 2 of chapter 49 of the acts of 1925, as amended by chapter 78 of the acts of 1960, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 3, the word "twenty" and inserting in place thereof the word: — sixty, — so as to read as follows: —

Section 2. Said corporation may hold real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding sixty million dollars, anything in the laws of the commonwealth to the contrary notwithstanding.

*Approved July 22, 1971.*

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, STATE HOUSE  
BOSTON, July 22, 1971

The Honorable JOHN F. X. DAVOREN, *Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston, Massachusetts.*

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: — I, Francis W. Sargent, pursuant to the provisions of Article XLVIII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the Referendum II, Emergency Measures, hereby declare in my opinion the immediate preservation of the public convenience requires that the law being Chapter 553 of the Acts of 1971, entitled "AN ACT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF PROPERTY THAT MAY BE HELD BY THE LOWELL GENERAL HOSPITAL," and the enactment of which received my approval on July 22, 1971 should take effect forthwith.

I further declare that in my opinion said law is an emergency law and the facts constituting the emergency are as follows:

In order to permit the immediate construction of additional facilities for the Lowell General Hospital.

Sincerely,  
FRANCIS W. SARGENT,  
*Governor of the Commonwealth.*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, BOSTON, July 22, 1971.

I, John F. X. Davoren, Secretary of the Commonwealth, hereby certify that the accompanying statement was filed in this office by His Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at four o'clock and thirty-five minutes, P.M., on the above date, and in accordance with Article Forty-eight of the Amendments to the Constitution said chapter takes effect forthwith, being chapter five hundred and fifty-three of the acts of nineteen hundred and seventy-one.

JOHN F. X. DAVOREN,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

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**Chap. 554.** AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GERIATRIC AUTHORITY OF HOLYOKE AND PROVIDING FOR THE FINANCING THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared that the establishment of a geriatric authority in the city of Holyoke to shelter and protect and provide services to the aging and infirm who can continue to reside in the community but may be in need of activities and services provided for at or by the Municipal Nursing Home of Holyoke and such social welfare and health programs in the community relating to the care of the aging is a public purpose. It is further declared that the lack of properly constructed dwelling units designed specifically to meet the needs of elderly and infirm persons aggravates those diseases peculiar to the elderly.

SECTION 2. There shall be in the city of Holyoke the Geriatric Authority of Holyoke, hereinafter referred to as the Authority, which shall be the municipal board to oversee, maintain and operate the Municipal Nursing Home of Holyoke and any other facilities which may be established by said Authority in accordance with the powers conferred upon it by this act.

SECTION 3. Said Authority shall consist of seven members, three to be appointed by the board of aldermen and three to be appointed by the mayor without confirmation, who shall serve for a term of three years. The six members so appointed shall elect a seventh member for a term of one year. Of the members first appointed by the mayor or the board of aldermen, one shall serve for a term of one year, one for a term of two years and one for a term of three years. No member shall serve for more than nine consecutive years. The mayor's appointments shall be selected as follows: — one representing the medical field, one representing the legal or financial field and the third with experience in the field of geriatrics. The board of aldermen's appointments shall be selected as follows: — one representing the medical field, one representing the legal or financial field and the third having experience in the field of geriatrics. Any member may be removed from office by vote of the board of aldermen for cause. The Authority shall hold at least twelve meetings in every calendar year, and a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for each meeting.

SECTION 4. The Authority shall have the general management and control of the Municipal Nursing Home of Holyoke, any branches thereof which have been or which may hereafter be established, and of the expenditure of the money appropriated for the operation thereof. Said Authority may appoint an administrator with such assistant and