

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1677

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By Mr. Toomey of Cambridge, petition of the Massachusetts Permanent Firemen's Association for certain changes in requirements for promotion to higher grade in police and fire departments. Civil Service.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine.

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AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROMOTION TO HIGHER GRADE IN POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 31 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by striking out section 20, as most  
3 recently amended, and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following new section: —

5 *Section 20.* Appointments and promotions in such  
6 police and fire forces of cities and towns as are within  
7 the official service and in the detective force of the  
8 state department of public safety and in the police  
9 force of the metropolitan district commission shall be  
10 made only by competitive examination, except as  
11 otherwise provided in this chapter, or in the rules of  
12 the commission relative to temporary or emergency  
13 appointments. No such examination shall be held

14 until there are at least four applicants for appointment  
15 or promotion for one existing vacancy, except as to  
16 applicants for appointment to the lowest grade, and  
17 except as herein provided. No examination shall be  
18 required for promotion of call men within the call  
19 fire forces of any city or town which are within the  
20 official service. In making appointments or promo-  
21 tions to all grades of service other than the lowest, the  
22 examination and appointment shall be limited to per-  
23 sons of the next lower rank; but if the number of  
24 applicants for examination in such lower rank is not  
25 sufficient to hold an examination, the next lower ranks  
26 shall in succession be thrown open to the examination  
27 until at least the necessary number have applied, pro-  
28 vided, that such applicants shall not be eligible to  
29 take any such examination for the first grade above  
30 the lowest grade in police or fire departments in cities  
31 and towns with a population in excess of fifty thou-  
32 sand and in the detective force of the state department  
33 of public safety and in the police force of the metro-  
34 politan district commission unless they have been  
35 employed in the lower rank or ranks admitted to the  
36 examination for at least three years, including service  
37 as provisional appointee and for all other grades unless  
38 they have been employed in the lower rank or ranks  
39 admitted to the examination for at least one year. In  
40 cities and towns with a population of fifty thousand or  
41 under, such applicants shall not be eligible to take  
42 any such examination unless they have been em-  
43 ployed in the lower rank or ranks admitted to the ex-  
44 amination for at least one year. If an examination  
45 has been thrown open to all the lower grades in suc-  
46 cession and at least four do not apply therefor the

47 director may hold the examination limited to such  
48 lesser number.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall apply to all examinations  
2 held on or after September first, nineteen hundred and  
3 forty-nine.