

By Mr. McCarthy of East Bridgewater, petition of the County Commissioners' and Sheriffs' Association of Massachusetts for regulating further the terms of office of county commissioners. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

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. Section 4 of chapter 34 of the General
2 Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of chap-
3 ter 31 of the acts of 1939, is hereby further amended
4 by striking out in the fourth line the word "four"
5 and inserting in place thereof the word:— six, — so
6 as to read as follows:— *Section 4.* Except in Nan-
7 tucket and Suffolk counties, there shall be elected in
8 each county, as provided in section one hundred and
9 fifty-eight of chapter fifty-four, for terms of six years
10 beginning the first Wednesday of January following
11 their election and until their successors are qualified,
12 three county commissioners, who shall be sworn before
13 entering upon their duties, and shall annually, at
14 their first meeting after the first Wednesday of Jan-
15 uary, choose by ballot a chairman. In Nantucket
16 county the selectmen of Nantucket, and in Suffolk
17 county the mayor and city council of Boston, the
18 municipal council of Chelsea and the city council of
19 Revere, in their respective cities, and the selectmen
20 of Winthrop in said town, shall, except as otherwise
21 provided, have the powers and perform the duties of
22 county commissioners.

1 SECTION 2. Section 158 of chapter 34 of the Gen-
2 eral Laws, as amended, is hereby further amended by
3 striking out the first paragraph, as most recently
4 amended by section 5 of chapter 31 of the acts of
5 1939, and inserting in place thereof the following
6 paragraph:—

7 There shall be chosen by the voters of each of the
8 counties, except Suffolk and Nantucket, at the bi-
9 ennial state election in nineteen hundred and fifty-
10 four one county commissioner for said county, at the
11 biennial state election in nineteen hundred and fifty-
12 six, two county commissioners for said county, and
13 in every second year thereafter one county commis-
14 sioner for said county, and in addition at each bi-
15 ennial state election such number of county commis-
16 sioners as may be required to be chosen under section
17 one hundred and forty-four to fill vacancies.

1 SECTION 3. County commissioners in office upon
2 the effective date of this act shall continue to serve
3 for the balance of the terms for which they were
4 severally elected and until their respective successors
5 are qualified. Any other provision of law to the con-
6 trary notwithstanding, of the two county commis-
7 sioners to be elected at the beinnial state election in
8 the year nineteen hundred and fifty-six, one shall be
9 elected for the term of two years and one for the term
10 of six years.