

SENATE No. 607

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, February 1, 1954.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading, to whom was referred the Senate Bill to amend the charter of the city of Northampton to provide for a unicameral city council (Senate, No. 191, changed), report recommending that the same be amended by substituting therefor a new draft entitled "An Act providing for a unicameral city council in the city of Northampton" (Senate, No. 607), and that, when so amended, the same will be correctly drawn.

For the committee,

NEWLAND H. HOLMES.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A UNICAMERAL CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON.

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. Sections seven and eight and the last
2 sentence of section nine of chapter two hundred and
3 fifty of the acts of eighteen hundred and eighty-three
4 are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 250 of the acts of 1883
2 is hereby further amended by striking out section 2
3 and inserting in place thereof the following section: —
4 *Section 2.* The administration of all the fiscal, pru-
5 dential, and municipal affairs of the said city, with the
6 government thereof, shall be vested in an officer to be
7 called the mayor, and a council of nine members to
8 be called the city council, who shall be sworn to the
9 faithful performance of their duties. A majority of
10 the city council shall constitute a quorum for the
11 transaction of business. The mayor and each mem-
12 ber of the city council shall receive for his services
13 such salary as the city council shall by ordinance de-
14 termine, and shall receive no other compensation from
15 the city. One member of the city council shall be
16 elected by and from the qualified voters of each ward,
17 and shall, at the time of election, be a resident of the
18 ward in which elected. Two members of the city
19 council shall be elected by and from the qualified
20 voters of the city, voting in their respective wards,
21 and shall be known as councillors-at-large. The
22 members of the city council shall hold office for the

23 term of two years from the first Monday in January
24 next following their election, and until a majority of
25 the succeeding council is chosen and qualified. After
26 being sworn to the faithful performance of their
27 duties, the members of the city council shall be or-
28 ganized by electing from among their own number a
29 president, who shall preside at all meetings of the city
30 council in the absence of the mayor, and shall act as
31 mayor in case of a vacancy in the office of mayor
32 or of his inability to act until the inability ceases or
33 the vacancy is filled. If a vacancy occurs through
34 the death, resignation, or removal from the city of a
35 member of the city council, the city council shall
36 forthwith order an election to fill such vacancy, unless
37 less than six months remains of the term for which
38 such member has been elected. The city clerk shall
39 serve as clerk of the city council and shall receive
40 no extra compensation therefor.

1 SECTION 3. The city council elected in accordance
2 with section two of said chapter two hundred and
3 fifty of the acts of eighteen hundred and eighty-three,
4 as amended by section two of this act, and their suc-
5 cessors, shall thereafter be vested with all the privi-
6 leges, powers and rights and be subject to all the duties
7 and obligations conferred or imposed by law upon the
8 common council and board of aldermen, acting sepa-
9 rately or together, as existing prior to the effective
10 date of this act.

1 SECTION 4. Upon petition of ten per cent of the
2 registered voters of the city of Northampton certified
3 by the registrars of voters and filed with the city clerk
4 not later than sixty days prior to the municipal elec-
5 tion in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-five, this
6 act shall be submitted to the registered voters of said
7 city at the regular municipal election in the year nine-
8 teen hundred and fifty-five, in the form of the follow-
9 ing question, which shall be placed upon the official
10 ballot to be used in said city at said election:—

11 "Shall an act passed by the general court in the year
12 nineteen hundred and fifty-four, entitled, 'An Act
13 providing for a unicameral city council in the city of
14 Northampton', be accepted?" If a majority of the
15 voters voting thereon vote in the affirmative in answer
16 to said question, then this act shall take full effect
17 for the nomination and election of municipal officers
18 in said city in the year nineteen hundred and fifty-
19 seven, but not otherwise.