
By Mr. Chmura of Holyoke, petition of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor relative to the organization and powers of the State Housing Board. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION AND POWERS OF
THE STATE HOUSING BOARD.

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 6 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 64, as amended by chap-
3 ter 577 of the acts of 1949, and inserting in place thereof
4 the following section: —

5 *Section 64.* There shall be a state housing board, in
6 this section called the board, consisting of five members
7 appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent
8 of the council, one of whom shall be designated by the
9 governor as chairman, and another of whom shall be
10 designated by the governor as vice-chairman; and one
11 member of the board shall be a representative of labor.
12 The vice-chairman shall, during the absence or disability
13 of the chairman, exercise all of the powers of the chair-
14 man. Upon the expiration of the term of office of a mem-
15 ber, his successor shall be appointed in the manner
16 aforesaid to serve for a term of five years. Any vacancy
17 shall be filled in the manner aforesaid for the remainder
18 of the unexpired term. Any vacancy in said board shall
19 not impair its powers or affect its duties. The chairman
20 shall receive, subject to appropriation, such annual sal-
21 ary as the governor and council shall approve, and shall

22 devote his whole time to the duties of his office. The
23 remaining four members shall each receive, subject to
24 appropriation, an annual salary of two thousand five
25 hundred dollars. A majority of the members shall con-
26 stitute a quorum. The board shall have a seal, which
27 shall be judicially noticed, and shall make an annual
28 report to the general court and such additional reports
29 to the general court and the governor as it or he shall
30 deem necessary or advisable. All powers of the board
31 shall be exercised by the board acting by a majority vote
32 at a regular or special meeting; but the board may
33 delegate to the chairman or any other member of the
34 board the performance of such administrative duties as
35 seem to it advisable. The principal office of the board
36 shall be in the city of Boston, but it may sit at any place
37 within the commonwealth. The time and place of its
38 regular meetings shall be determined by the board, but
39 special meetings may be called by the chairman, or, in
40 his absence or disability, by the vice-chairman, or by a
41 majority of the members of the board. Adequate offices
42 in the state house or elsewhere in said city shall be pro-
43 vided for the board, and the proper county commissioners
44 shall provide it with suitable rooms in courthouses or
45 other buildings when necessary for hearings outside the
46 city.

47 The board may, within the limits of the amount ap-
48 propriated therefor, and notwithstanding any other pro-
49 vision of law, appoint or employ such experts, counsel,
50 clerks and assistants as the work of the board may re-
51 quire, and may remove them, and may make such ex-
52 penditures as may be necessary in order to execute
53 effectively the functions of the board. The members
54 and employees of the board shall receive their necessary
55 traveling expenses, and, except as otherwise provided
56 by law, their expenses actually incurred for subsistence
57 while traveling outside the city of Boston in the per-
58 formance of their duties. The necessary administrative
59 and other expenses of the board shall be paid from such
60 appropriations as may be made for the purpose. All

61 moneys received by the board as fees or otherwise shall
62 be paid at least monthly to the state treasurer.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 260 of the acts of 1948 is hereby
2 amended by striking out the third sentence of section 5
3 thereof and inserting in its place the following new third
4 sentence in said section 5:— The state housing board,
5 acting by a majority of its members, shall exercise and
6 perform all other rights, powers, duties and obligations
7 previously performed by the chairman of the state
8 housing board, and of the state board of housing.

1 SECTION 3. The fourth sentence of section 6 of chap-
2 ter 260 of the acts of 1948 is hereby stricken out and
3 the following new sentence is substituted in place
4 thereof:— They shall perform such duties for the state
5 housing board for which they are qualified as the board
6 by majority vote may prescribe.

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