

HOUSE No. 2431

By Mr. Gray of Springfield, petition of Walter M. Grocki that the city of Chicopee be authorized to establish a police commission. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CHICOPEE TO ESTABLISH A POLICE COMMISSION.

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. There is hereby established a police com-
2 mission to consist of three persons who shall be citizens
3 of the city of Chicopee, and who shall be appointed
4 by the mayor, subject to the approval by the board of
5 aldermen, to hold office during the term for which they
6 are respectively appointed and until their respective
7 successors have been duly appointed and qualified.

8 Upon the effective date of the within act the mayor,
9 subject to the approval by the board of aldermen, shall
10 appoint three members to hold office for the terms of
11 one, two and three years, respectively, commencing
12 with the first Monday of February, and thereafter in
13 the month of January of each year, the mayor, subject
14 to the approval by the board of aldermen, shall appoint
15 a member of said commission to hold office for the term
16 of three years from the first Monday of February next.

17 Any vacancy in the commission occurring otherwise
18 than by the expiration of a term shall be filled by the
19 mayor, subject to the approval by the board of alder-
20 men, for the unexpired term.

21 Any member may be removed from office for cause,
22 after a hearing held by the mayor, subject to the ap-
23 proval by the board of aldermen.

24 A vacancy in said commission shall be filled in the
25 manner of an original appointment within thirty days
26 from its occurrence.

27 The members of said commission shall serve without
28 compensation.

1 SECTION 2. The commission shall organize annually
2 in the month of February by the election of a chairman
3 and a clerk. A quorum for the transaction of business
4 by said commission shall consist of no fewer than two
5 members.

6 Said commission may make rules for the government
7 of its procedure.

1 SECTION 3. The said commission shall, subject to the
2 provisions hereof, have the appointment, management
3 and control of the members and employees of the police
4 department.

5 The said commission shall make such lawful rules for
6 the maintenance of said department, including the regu-
7 lation, government and discipline of such members and
8 employees, and for the direction and control of those
9 having charge of signal system, including employees
10 thereof, as it deems wise and proper. The said commis-
11 sion shall be responsible for, and have the charge and
12 care of all property belonging to the police department,
13 and shall properly maintain the same by necessary
14 expenditures from the funds available for the use of said
15 department. The said commission shall have the power
16 to purchase and obtain property necessary for the
17 department, and to sell such of the department's prop-
18 erty as it may deem expedient, but no purchase or sale
19 of such property to an amount exceeding five hundred
20 dollars at any one time for any one purpose shall be
21 made without authority of the board of aldermen
22 therefor. Moneys derived from the sale of property

23 shall be paid forthwith to the city treasurer. The com-
24 mission shall seasonably approve all bills, including pay
25 rolls, lawfully contracted by the department, and certify
26 them to the city auditor. The said commission shall
27 have the power to examine into absences of members
28 and employees of the department, other than those
29 allowed by law or ordinance, and may approve or dis-
30 approve the payment of salary for the period of any
31 absences.

1 SECTION 4. So much of chapter two hundred and
2 thirty-nine of the acts of eighteen hundred and ninety-
3 seven, and acts in amendment thereof and in addition
4 thereto, as is inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall be submitted for acceptance
2 to the registered voters of the city of Chicopee at the
3 biennial state election to be held in the year nineteen
4 hundred and fifty-six, in the form of the following
5 question, which shall be printed on the official ballot
6 to be used in said city at said election:—“Shall an
7 Act passed by the general court in the year nineteen
8 hundred and fifty-six, entitled ‘An Act Authorizing the
9 City of Chicopee to Establish a Police Commission’,
10 be accepted?” If the majority of the votes in answer
11 to said question is in the affirmative, then this act
12 shall thereupon take full effect on the first Monday of
13 January next, but not otherwise.

