
By Mr. Keenan of Boston, petition of William Francis Keenan for legislation to provide for a metropolitan police force. Metropolitan Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A METROPOLITAN
POLICE FORCE.

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 shall be a metropolitan police force under
2 the supervision of a commissioner to be known as the metro-
3 politan police commissioner. He shall be a resident of a city or
4 town comprising the metropolitan parks district, and shall be
5 appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the
6 council, for a term of seven years. Upon the expiration of his
7 term his successor shall be appointed in like manner. The com-
8 missioner shall receive a salary of fifteen thousand dollars.

1 SECTION 2. The commissioner shall be the executive and ad-
2 ministrative head of the metropolitan police force, and may ap-
3 point a secretary, inspectors, officers, members of the police
4 force, one or more women as special police officers, clerks and
5 such other officers and employees as the work of the police force
6 may require, and may assign them to headquarters or to di-
7 visions, transfer and remove them as provided by chapter
8 thirty-one of the General Laws, except that the secretary shall
9 be exempt from said chapter thirty-one. The headquarters of
10 the metropolitan police force shall be located in the city of
11 Boston.

1 SECTION 3. Police officers of the metropolitan police force
2 except special women police officers, shall have within the cities

3 and towns comprising the metropolitan parks district, and
4 within the towns outside said district wherever any property of
5 the metropolitan water and sewerage district is located, all the
6 powers of police officers and constables of towns of the common-
7 wealth, except the power of serving and executing civil process,
8 and may carry within the commonwealth such weapons as the
9 commissioner shall authorize.

1 SECTION 4. Members of the metropolitan police force shall
2 be excused from duty without loss of pay for two consecutive
3 days in each period of seven days, except that, in case of any
4 public emergency, or of any unusual demand for the services of
5 said force, the commissioner may assign the authorized number
6 of days off in such manner and at such time as will assure the
7 maximum use of said force.

1 SECTION 5. The commissioner may appoint and employ as a
2 call officer for temporary service any person on the list of the
3 division of civil service in the department of civil service and
4 registration of eligibles for appointment to the permanent
5 metropolitan police force. Any such call officer, when on duty
6 shall have all the powers and authority conferred on metropolitan
7 police officers by section three.

1 SECTION 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
2 members of the metropolitan police force who perform service
3 beyond their regular hours of service shall be compensated
4 therefor as overtime service.

1 SECTION 7. The commissioner may authorize the payment of
2 reasonable hospital, medical and surgical expenses of any per-
3 manent member of the police force or of any call officer thereof
4 disabled, either mentally or physically, by injuries sustained
5 through no fault of his own in the actual performance of his
6 duty, for useful service in the force either temporarily or per-
7 manently.

1 SECTION 8. The commissioner shall, subject to appropriation,
2 indemnify a metropolitan police officer, to an amount not more
3 than the amount recommended by said commissioner, for ex-

4 penses or damages sustained by him while acting as a police
5 officer, or incurred by him in the defense or settlement of an
6 action brought against him for acts done by him while so acting;
7 provided, that the defense or settlement of such claim shall have
8 been made by the attorney general; and such damages shall
9 include loss of pay by reason of absence from duty on the part
10 of such officer because of temporary incapacity caused by injury
11 suffered through no fault of his own while in the actual perform-
12 ance of duty; and, if such officer be dead, such expenses or
13 damages shall be payable to his widow, or, if he leaves no widow,
14 then to his next of kin, who, at the time of his death, were de-
15 pendent upon his salary for support. This section shall be con-
16 strued to require the commissioner to pay compensation, in the
17 manner herein provided, for damages for personal injuries,
18 whether or not death results; provided, the amount of such
19 compensation shall have been approved by the attorney general.

1 SECTION 9. On the effective date of this act the metropolitan
2 district police force, and the police force or department of each
3 city and town comprising the metropolitan parks district, as
4 appearing in section thirty-three of chapter ninety-two of the
5 General Laws, shall be transferred to and become part of the
6 metropolitan police force, and all powers and duties of any such
7 police force or police department shall be transferred to and
8 shall thereafter be exercised and performed by the metropolitan
9 police force, and all police records and other data shall be trans-
10 ferred to the metropolitan police force. Any member of the
11 police force or department of any said city or town who has
12 fifteen years' continuous service shall not be transferred from
13 said city or town, except at his own request.

1 SECTION 10. The employees of the metropolitan district
2 police force and of the police force or department of each city
3 and town comprising the metropolitan parks district who hold
4 positions classified under chapter thirty-one of the General
5 Laws, or are subject to the provisions of section nine A of chapter
6 thirty of the General Laws, are hereby transferred to the service
7 of the metropolitan police force without impairment of their
8 civil service, retirement, seniority or other rights, and their
9 term of office shall not be interrupted within the meaning of

10 said chapter thirty-one or said section nine A of chapter thirty,
11 notwithstanding any change in title or duties made as a result
12 of such transfer; provided, that no such employee shall be
13 lowered in compensation.

1 SECTION 11. The expense of the salaries of all members and
2 employees of the metropolitan police force and the expense of
3 maintaining and operating the said force shall be paid by the
4 metropolitan parks district. The state treasurer shall include
5 the amounts required of each town of said district to meet said
6 expenses in the sums assessed upon said towns and such amounts
7 shall be paid by said towns to the commonwealth as provided
8 by section twenty of chapter fifty-nine of the General Laws.

1 SECTION 12. Section 4 of chapter 28 of the General Laws, as
2 amended by section 2 of chapter 244 of the acts of 1936, is
3 hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 3 and 4, the
4 words “, officers and members of the police force, one or more
5 women as special police officers”.

1 SECTION 13. Section 20 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, as
2 amended, is hereby further amended by striking out the words
3 “police force of the metropolitan district commission” each
4 time they occur and inserting in place thereof, in each instance,
5 the words: — metropolitan police force.

1 SECTION 14. Group B of paragraph (g) of subdivision (2) of
2 section 3 of chapter 32 of the General Laws, as most recently
3 amended by section 1 of chapter 445 of the acts of 1954, is
4 hereby further amended by striking out, in lines 2 and 3, the
5 words “police force of the metropolitan district commission”
6 and inserting in place thereof the words: — metropolitan police
7 force.

1 SECTION 15. Sections sixty-one, sixty-two, sixty-two A,
2 sixty-two B, sixty-three A and sixty-three B of chapter ninety-
3 two of the General Laws are hereby repealed.