

HOUSE No. 2355

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 2, 1953.

The committee on Cities, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 837) of John M. Lynch (mayor) for legislation to establish a department of public works in the city of Somerville, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2355).

For the committee,

CLIFTON H. BAKER.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE.

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 in the
2 city of Somerville a department of public works,
3 which shall be under the direction and control of the
4 commissioner of public works.

1 SECTION 2. The commissioner of public works
2 shall have the direction and control of the construc-
3 tion, alteration, repair, maintenance and manage-
4 ment of ways, streets, sidewalks and bridges; he shall
5 have the powers and discharge the duties of surveyors
6 of highways; the construction, alteration, repair and
7 care of main drains and common sewers; the care,
8 superintendence and management of the public
9 grounds and parks, including cemeteries; he shall
10 make and have the custody of all plans, surveys,
11 measurements and levels appertaining to public ways,
12 drains, sewers, water works or lands; he shall have
13 charge of the construction, alteration, repair, mainte-
14 nance and care of public buildings; he shall have
15 charge, so far as the rights of the city extend, of fire
16 alarm and police signal systems and of all electric

17 light, power, telephone, telegraph and trolley wires,
18 of all gas pipes and street lighting; he shall have
19 charge of the construction, extension, alteration,
20 repair, care and management of the water works;
21 he shall have charge and control of the collection and
22 disposal of waste materials and shall perform such
23 other duties as the board of aldermen may direct.

1 SECTION 3. Upon acceptance of this act in accord-
2 ance with the provisions of section eight, and not
3 later than January fifteenth, nineteen hundred and
4 fifty-four, the mayor shall, subject to the approval of
5 the board of aldermen, appoint a commissioner of
6 public works who may also be the city engineer of said
7 city, and shall hold office during the term of the
8 mayor and until his successor is appointed.

1 SECTION 4. There shall be established within the
2 department of public works the following divisions: —

- 3 1. Division of highways.
- 4 2. Division of engineering.
- 5 3. Division of water works.
- 6 4. Division of electric lines and lights.
- 7 5. Division of buildings.
- 8 6. Division of sanitation.

9 Each division of the department of public works
10 shall have the management and control of such of the
11 duties of the department of public works as may be
12 determined by the commissioner of public works or
13 by the board of aldermen.

1 SECTION 5. There shall be a superintendent of
2 the division of highways, a city engineer, a superin-
3 tendent of the division of water works, a superin-

4 tendent of the division of electric lines and lights,
5 a superintendent of the division of buildings and a
6 superintendent of the division of sanitation. The city
7 engineer and the superintendents of the various di-
8 visions shall have charge of their respective divisions
9 under the direction of the commissioner of public
10 works.

11 The mayor shall annually appoint, subject to con-
12 firmation by the board of aldermen, a superintendent
13 of the division of highways, a city engineer who may
14 also be the commissioner of public works, a superin-
15 tendent of the division of water works, a superin-
16 tendent of the division of electric lines and lights,
17 a superintendent of the division of buildings, and a
18 superintendent of the division of sanitation.

1 SECTION 6. All persons now employed in the high-
2 way department, engineering department, building
3 department, electric lines and lights department,
4 sanitary department and water department of the
5 city of Somerville are hereby transferred to the de-
6 partment of public works. All such transfers of em-
7 ployees shall be made without loss of pay and with-
8 out change of rating, seniority, retirement or pension
9 rights, or any other rights or privileges under any
10 provision of law or ordinance.

1 SECTION 7. The provisions of any statute or ordi-
2 nance of the city of Somerville which are inconsistent
3 with this chapter are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 8. This act shall be submitted for accept-
2 ance to the voters of said city at the biennial municipal
3 election to be held in the current year, in the form of

4 the following question which shall be placed on the
5 official ballot to be used in said election: — “Shall an
6 act passed by the General Court in the year nineteen
7 hundred and fifty-three, entitled ‘An Act to establish
8 a department of public works in the city of Somer-
9 ville’, be accepted?” If a majority of the votes in
10 answer to said question is in the affirmative, then this
11 act shall thereupon take full effect, but not otherwise.



