

SENATE No. 1142

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, April 24, 1967.

The committee on Cities, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 312) of Oliver A. Ames, Maurice E. Frye, Jr., and John W. Sears for legislation relative to the redrawing of ward boundaries; petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2143) of Marianna M. Reynolds for legislation relative to the boundaries of wards in cities; and the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2250) of Charles H. McGlue and Thomas F. Farrell for legislation to require the redrawing of ward lines in cities in years ending in the number seven, report the accompanying bill (Senate, No. 1142).

For the committee,

OLIVER F. AMES.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE REDRAWING OF WARD BOUNDARIES.

1 *Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to
2 defeat its purpose, which is to provide forthwith that the law
3 providing for the decennial division of cities into wards take
4 effect begining with the current year, therefore it is hereby
5 declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 54 of the General Laws is hereby amended by strik-
2 ing out section 1, as amended by chapter 424 of the acts of
3 1965, and inserting in place thereof the following section: —

4 *Section 1.* In nineteen hundred and sixty-seven, and every
5 tenth year thereafter, in May a city by vote of its city coun-
6 cil, may, or, if the existing wards in such city do not contain,
7 as nearly as can be ascertained, an equal number of voters,
8 shall, make a new division of its territory into such number of
9 wards as may be fixed by law. The boundaries of such new
10 wards shall be so arranged that the wards shall contain, as
11 nearly as can be ascertained and as may be consistent with
12 well defined limits to each ward, an equal number of voters.
13 The city clerk shall forthwith give written notice to the state
14 secretary of the number and designation of the wards so estab-
15 lished, together with an official description of said wards.

16 If, in June in any such year, a complaint in writing is filed
17 with the attorney general by ten or more voters of a city,
18 alleging that such city was required to make a new division
19 of the territory thereof into wards under the provisions of the
20 preceding paragraph but has failed to do so within the time
21 therein provided, the attorney general shall, if he is satisfied
22 that the allegations of said complaint are true, not later than

23 the end of the month of July in such year, bring a petition in
24 the name of the commonwealth in the superior court to
25 compel such city to comply with the provisions of this section.
26 Upon such petition the superior court shall have the jurisdic-
27 tion in equity to enforce said provisions and may issue any
28 appropriate orders or decrees it deems necessary to ensure
29 such new division being made not later than December in
30 such year.

31 Any such new division made under the provisions of this sec-
32 tion shall, for the purposes of the special enumeration of the
33 legal voters in each ward of such city required by the consti-
34 tution, take effect on January first of the year following, but
35 for all other purposes shall take effect only as provided in
36 section four.

