

state hospital land for the reconstruction of a portion of route 140.

Approved October 27, 1976.

Chap. 529. AN ACT PROVIDING THAT REGISTRARS OF VOTERS SHALL HOLD CONTINUOUS SESSION FOR REGISTRATION FROM TWELVE O'CLOCK NOON UNTIL EIGHT O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING ON THE SATURDAY PRECEDING THE LAST DAY FOR REGISTRATION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 28 of chapter 51 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 2 of chapter 853 of the acts of 1973, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 8, the word "ten" and inserting in place thereof the word:- eight.

SECTION 2. Section 29B of said chapter 51 is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence, as appearing in section 2 of chapter 236 of the acts of 1966, and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- They shall hold at their principal office at least one night session in each week during the last three weeks prior to the close of registration.

SECTION 3. Section 30 of said chapter 51 is hereby amended by striking out the second sentence, as appearing in section 3 of said chapter 236, and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- They shall hold at their principal office at least one night session in each week during the last three weeks prior to the close of registration.

Approved October 27, 1976.

Chap. 530. AN ACT AUTHORIZING RESTRAINT OF DOGS WHICH ATTACK OTHER ANIMALS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 157 of chapter 140 of the General Laws, as amended by section 20 of chapter 320 of the acts of 1934, is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph:-

The act of a dog in attacking or biting another dog or other animal may be made the subject of a complaint under the provisions of this section.

Approved October 27, 1976.

Chap. 531. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE INVESTMENT IN BONDS BY ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANIES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 46 of chapter 168 of the General Laws, as appearing in

section 1 of chapter 432 of the acts of 1955, is hereby amended by striking out subdivision B and inserting in place thereof the following subdivision:-

B. Other Companies. Any such corporation may invest in the bonds of any company which at the time of such investment is incorporated under the laws of the United States or any state thereof, or the District of Columbia, and transacting the business of supplying electrical energy or artificial gas, or natural gas purchased from another company and supplied in substitution for, or in mixture with, artificial gas, for light, heat, power and other purposes, or transacting any or all of such business, provided at least eighty per centum of the gross operating revenues of any such company are derived from such business, subject to the following conditions:

1. Such company shall have been in existence for a period of not less than eight fiscal years and at no time within such period of eight fiscal years next preceding the date of such investment shall said company have failed to pay promptly and regularly the matured principal and interest of all its indebtedness direct, assumed or guaranteed, but the period of life of the company, together with the period of life of any predecessor company or companies from which a major portion of its property was acquired by consolidation, merger or purchase shall be considered together in determining the required period.

2. Such company shall make public in each year a statement and a report giving the income account covering the previous fiscal year and a balance sheet showing in reasonable detail the assets and liabilities at the end of the year.

3. Either the outstanding full paid capital stock together with premiums thereon and the surplus of such company shall be equal to at least two thirds of the total debt secured by mortgage lien on any part or all of its property, or the outstanding full paid capital stock together with premiums thereon and surplus and unsecured debt not maturing within five years and not in excess of fifty per cent of such capital stock, premiums and surplus shall be equal to at least three-fourths of the total debt secured by mortgage lien on any part or all of its property, provided, however, that in case of a company having no-par value shares, the amount of capital which such shares represent shall be the capital as shown by the books of the company.

4. For a period of five fiscal years next preceding such investment the net earnings of such company shall have averaged per year not less than two and one-half times the average annual interest charges on its total funded debt applicable to that period, and for the last fiscal year preceding such investment such net earnings shall have been not less than one and three-quarters times the interest charges on its total funded debt for such year, and for such period the gross operating revenues of any such company shall have averaged per year not less than five million dollars.

5. In determining the qualifications of any bond under this section where a company shall have acquired its property or any substantial part thereof within five years immediately preceding the date of such investment by consolidation or merger, or by the purchase of all or a substantial portion of the property of any other company or companies, the gross operating revenues, net earnings, and interest charges of the several predecessor or constituent companies shall be consolidated and adjusted so as to ascertain whether the requirements of paragraph 4 of this section have been complied with.

6. Such bonds shall be

(a) bonds secured by a first or refunding mortgage on property owned and operated, or controlled, by the company issuing or assuming them, or underlying mortgage bonds secured by a lien on property owned and operated, or controlled, by the company issuing or assuming them, provided that such underlying mortgage bonds are to be refunded by a junior mortgage providing for their retirement, that the bonds under such junior mortgage comply with the requirements of this section, and that such underlying mortgage is either a closed mortgage or remains open solely for the issue of additional bonds which are to be pledged under such junior mortgage and provided that the aggregate principal amount of bonds secured by such first or refunding mortgage plus the principal amount of all the underlying outstanding bonds shall not exceed two thirds of the net value of the physical property owned or controlled as shown by the books of the owning company, and subject to the lien of such mortgage or mortgages securing the total mortgage debt and provided further, that if a refunding mortgage, it must provide for the retirement on or before the date of their maturity of all bonds secured by prior liens on the property, or

(b) bonds, other than mortgage bonds, provided, that (1) for a period of five fiscal years next preceding such investment the net earnings of such company shall have averaged per year not less than two and one-half times the average annual interest charges on its total funded debt applicable to that period, and for the last fiscal year preceding such investment such net earnings shall have been not less than two and one-quarter times the interest charges on its total funded debt outstanding for such year, (2) the capital stock together with premiums thereon and surplus of such company shall be equal to at least two-thirds of its total funded debt outstanding, (3) such bonds, if issued for a term longer than fifteen years, shall have been issued under an indenture containing a covenant providing for the establishment of a sinking fund for the benefit of such bonds whereby such bonds shall be redeemed at an annual rate of not less than two per cent of the largest principal amount of their issue at any one time outstanding, and (4) the mortgage bonds of such company, if any, shall qualify under the provisions of this section.

7. For the purposes of this section

(a) the gross operating revenues and expenses of a company shall be, respectively, the total amount earned from the operation of, and the total expense of maintaining and operating, all property owned and operated, or leased and operated, by such company, as determined by a system of accounts adopted by a federal, state or municipal public service commission, public utility commission or other similar regulatory body;

(b) the net value of any property shall be its value as shown by the books of the company less the amounts of any reserves for depreciation, retirement or amortization thereof;

(c) property shall be deemed to be controlled by a company if such company shall own not less than ninety per cent of the capital stock of the company owning such property;

(d) the net earnings of any company shall be the balance obtained by deducting from its gross operating revenues, its operating and maintenance expenses, taxes other than federal and state income taxes, rentals and provision for depreciation of the physical assets of the company, and by adding to said balance its net income from securities and miscellaneous sources but not, however, to exceed fifteen per centum of said balance where such income is a positive amount;

(e) the term "funded debt" shall be construed to mean all interest-bearing debt;

(f) whenever a company shall own a majority of the capital stock of another company, the consolidated statements of such other company shall be used in determining the gross operating revenues, the amount of net earnings and the amount of interest charges of the company provided that all the mortgage bonds, if any, and a controlling interest in the capital stock of such other company, is pledged as part security for the mortgage debt, if any, of the principal company;

(g) in the computation of the ratio of mortgage debt to net mortgaged property value there shall be excluded from the amount of outstanding mortgage bonds the amount of any cash deposited with the trustee of the mortgage and held in trust pursuant to the terms of such mortgage;

(h) the term "bond" includes a note or a debenture.

8. The bonds shall be part of an original issue of not less than twenty-five million dollars in principal amount.

9. No bond which is rated within the fourth grade or lower by two independent rating services designated by the commissioner shall be eligible for investment hereunder.

10. Not more than twenty-five per cent of the deposits of any such bank shall be invested in obligations under this section, nor shall more than four per cent of such deposits be invested in the obligations of any one such company. This provision shall limit, by inclusion, any amounts invested in obligations of companies engaged in the sale and distribuion of electricity or gas, or both,

authorized for investment under the provisions of section fifty.

Approved October 27, 1976.

Chap. 532. AN ACT REDEFINING THE TERM "EXECUTIVE OFFICE PROMOTIONAL EXAMINATION" IN THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The definition of "Executive office promotional examination" in section 1 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, inserted by section 1 of chapter 685 of the acts of 1971, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "six A", in line r, the words:- , chapter seven, or chapter nineteen A.

Approved October 27, 1976.

Chap. 533. AN ACT AUTHORIZING WORK ACTIVITIES FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The first paragraph of section fifty-eight of chapter one hundred and nineteen of the General Laws, as amended by section thirteen of chapter one thousand and seventy-three of the acts of nineteen hundred and seventy-three, is hereby further amended by striking out the second sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:- If the allegations against a child are proved beyond a reasonable doubt, he may be adjudged a delinquent child, or in lieu thereof, the court may continue the case without a finding and, with the consent of the child and at least one of the child's parents or guardians, place said child on probation. Said probation may include a requirement, subject to agreement by the child and at least one of the child's parents or guardians, that the child do work or participate in activities of a type and for a period of time deemed appropriate by the court.

Approved October 27, 1976.

Chap. 534. AN ACT EXTENDING FOR A LIMITED PERIOD THE LAW PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OR RESTORATION OF THE RIGHTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. If the rights of any person acquired under the provisions of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws or under any rule made thereunder have been prejudiced through no fault of his own, the personnel administrator of the civil service commission, with the approval of said commission, may take such action as will restore or protect such rights, notwithstanding the failure of any person to comply with any requirement of said