

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1535

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By Mr. Hagan of Somerville, petition of James E. Hagan for reduction in the number of members of the board of aldermen and of the school committee of the city of Somerville. Cities.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Four.

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An Act to reduce the Number of Members of the Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville to Eleven and to reduce the Number of Members of the School Committee of Said City to Seven.

*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. Chapter two hundred and forty of  
2 the acts of eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, as  
3 amended in section ten by section three of chapter  
4 ninety-eight of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
5 nineteen, is hereby further amended by striking out  
6 said section ten and inserting in place thereof the  
7 following: —

8 *Section 10.* The board of aldermen shall be com-  
9 posed of eleven members, to be elected as follows:  
10 four aldermen at large shall biennially be elected by  
11 the qualified voters of the city at large, voting in  
12 their respective wards, and one alderman shall at

13 the same time be elected by and from the qualified  
14 voters of each ward. The members of the board of  
15 aldermen shall hold office for the two municipal  
16 years next following their election, or, if elected  
17 after the regular municipal election, for the remainder  
18 of the two municipal years following such regular  
19 municipal election and until a majority of the new  
20 board shall be elected and qualified in their stead.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter two hundred and forty,  
2 as amended in section twenty-eight by section eight  
3 of said chapter ninety-eight, is hereby further amended  
4 by striking out said section twenty-eight and insert-  
5 ing in place thereof the following: —

6 *Section 28.* The management and control of the  
7 public schools shall be vested in a school committee,  
8 which shall exercise the powers conferred and dis-  
9 charge the duties imposed by law on school com-  
10 mittees. The committee shall consist of the mayor,  
11 ex officio, who shall not serve as chairman, and seven  
12 other members, one from each ward, elected as fol-  
13 lows: one member from each ward shall be elected  
14 at each regular municipal election to serve for the  
15 term of two years next following. Vacancies occur-  
16 ring in the school committee shall be filled by the  
17 remaining members thereof, the member so elected  
18 to be a resident of the ward entitled to the new mem-  
19 ber, and to hold office for the remainder of the un-  
20 expired term.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall be submitted for ac-  
2 ceptance to the voters of the city of Somerville at  
3 the biennial state election in the current year in the  
4 form of the following question which shall be placed

5 upon the official ballot to be used in said city at  
6 said election: "Shall an act of the general court in  
7 the year nineteen hundred and thirty-four, entitled  
8 'An Act to reduce the Number of Members of the  
9 Board of Aldermen of the City of Somerville to  
10 Eleven and to reduce the Number of Members of  
11 the School Committee of said City to Seven', be  
12 accepted?" If a majority of the voters voting  
13 thereon vote in the affirmative in answer to said  
14 question, this act shall thereupon take effect, but  
15 not otherwise.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the train was the cold air. It was a relief after the warm, stuffy interior. I looked around and saw a few other passengers, some looking tired and some looking curious. The station was quiet, with only a few voices and the distant sound of a train whistle. I found my way to the platform and waited for my luggage. The porter came and helped me with my bags. I took a deep breath and stepped out into the world.

I had heard that the city was beautiful, but I didn't realize how beautiful it really was. The buildings were tall and grand, with intricate details and colorful facades. The streets were wide and clean, with a few horse-drawn carriages and a few people walking. The air was fresh and smelled of flowers and perfume. I was in luck, for the weather was perfect. The sun was shining brightly, and the sky was a clear, vibrant blue. I felt like I had entered a new world, one that was full of life and beauty.

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