

# SENATE . . . . No. 9

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To accompany the petition of the County Commissioners and Sheriffs Association of Massachusetts, by Samuel H. Wragg, for legislation to further regulate the terms of office of county commissioners. Counties.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five.

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### AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

*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. Section four of chapter thirty-four of  
2 the General Laws, as most recently amended by  
3 section one of chapter thirty-one of the acts of nine-  
4 teen hundred and thirty-nine, is hereby further  
5 amended by striking out in the fourth line the word  
6 "four" and inserting in place thereof the word:—  
7 six, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 4.* Except  
8 in Nantucket and Suffolk counties, there shall be  
9 elected in each county, as provided in section one  
10 hundred and fifty-eight of chapter fifty-four, for  
11 terms of six years beginning the first Wednesday of  
12 January following their election and until their  
13 successors are qualified, three county commissioners,  
14 who shall be sworn before entering upon their duties,

15 and shall annually, at their first meeting after the first  
16 Wednesday of January, choose by ballot a chairman.  
17 In Nantucket county the selectmen of Nantucket,  
18 and in Suffolk county the mayor and city council  
19 of Boston, the municipal council of Chelsea and the  
20 city council of Revere, in their respective cities, and  
21 the selectmen of Winthrop in said town, shall, except  
22 as otherwise provided, have the powers and perform  
23 the duties of county commissioners.

1 SECTION 2. Section one hundred and fifty-eight of  
2 chapter fifty-four of the General Laws, as amended,  
3 is hereby further amended by striking out the first  
4 paragraph, as most recently amended by section five  
5 of chapter thirty-one of the acts of nineteen hundred  
6 and thirty-nine, and inserting in place thereof the  
7 following paragraph:— There shall be chosen by the  
8 voters of each of the counties, except Suffolk and  
9 Nantucket, at the biennial state election in nineteen  
10 hundred and forty-six one county commissioner for  
11 said county, at the biennial state election in nineteen  
12 hundred and forty-eight two county commissioners  
13 for said county, and in every second year thereafter  
14 one county commissioner for said county, and in  
15 addition at each biennial state election such number  
16 of county commissioners as may be required to be  
17 chosen under section one hundred and forty-four to  
18 fill vacancies.

1 SECTION 3. County commissioners in office upon  
2 the effective date of this act shall continue to serve  
3 for the balance of the terms for which they were  
4 severally elected and until their respective successors  
5 are qualified. Upon the expiration of the term of

6 office of any such county commissioner his successor  
7 shall be elected for the term of six years; provided,  
8 that notwithstanding any provision of the first  
9 paragraph of section one hundred and fifty-eight of  
10 chapter fifty-four of the General Laws, as amended  
11 by section two of this act, or of this section, at the  
12 biennial state election in the year nineteen hundred  
13 and forty-eight of the two county commissioners to  
14 be elected thereat one shall be elected for the term  
15 of two years and one for the term of six years.

