

HOUSE No. 1662

By Mr. Marshall of Quincy, petition of Clifford H. Marshall and another relative to the establishment of an administrative committee of sheriffs. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF SHERIFFS.

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 37 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 the following section: —

3 *Section 24.* There is hereby established an administrative
4 committee of sheriffs consisting of three sheriffs, one to be
5 elected by and from the sheriffs of Berkshire, Franklin, Hamp-
6 den, and Hampshire counties; one to be elected by and from
7 the sheriffs of Essex, Middlesex and Worcester counties; and
8 one to be elected by and from the sheriffs of Barnstable, Bristol,
9 Norfolk, and Plymouth counties; provided, that in the election
10 of such member from the last named counties, the sheriff of
11 each of the counties of Nantucket and Dukes County shall be
12 entitled to one vote. The sheriff first elected from the sheriffs
13 of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties
14 shall serve for a term of one year, the sheriff first elected from
15 the sheriffs of Essex, Middlesex, and Worcester counties shall
16 serve for a term of two years, and the sheriff first elected from
17 the sheriffs of Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk, and Plymouth
18 counties shall serve for a term of three years. The members
19 first elected as aforesaid, shall be elected not later than the first
20 day of November, nineteen hundred and seventy-three and their
21 several terms shall run from said date. On or before October first
22 of the year in which the term of a member of the committee will

23 expire, his successor shall be elected in the same manner, at a
24 time and place to be designated by the director of accounts, to
25 serve for a term of three years from the first day of November
26 following. The retirement of any member of such administrative
27 committee as a sheriff shall thereupon create a vacancy in the
28 administrative committee. All vacancies in the administrative
29 committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original
30 election for the unexpired term; and all sheriffs elected to said
31 administrative committee shall serve until the qualification of
32 their respective successors. In the case of the absence or disability
33 of a member of the administrative committee, the other members
34 may designate an acting member from among the sheriffs of the
35 counties represented by such member to serve during his absence
36 or disability.

37 Such administrative committee shall study on a continuous
38 basis the procedures and administrative practices of the office
39 of the sheriff of each county for the purpose of recommending
40 uniform practices and procedures to the sheriffs of each county.
41 The members of such administrative committee shall be au-
42 thorized to travel anywhere in the commonwealth in perform-
43 ance of their responsibility under this section. Said administra-
44 tive committee shall be authorized to incur expenses for clerical
45 and other services connected with the performance of their
46 responsibilities. Such expenses of the administrative committee
47 and its members shall be met by assessment upon each county
48 as approved by the administrative committee and by the sheriff
49 of each respective county.

50 To promote uniformity in the practices and procedures by
51 the sheriffs of each county, the administrative committee may
52 call a conference of any or all of the several sheriffs, deputy
53 sheriffs, jailers and masters and keepers of the houses of cor-
54 rection, and the traveling expenses of such officers in attending
55 such conferences shall be paid as the other expenses of their
56 respective offices are paid.

57 The administrative committee may from time to time report
58 to the governor and to the general court its recommendations,
59 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such recommenda-
60 tions into effect, relative to any matter within its responsibilities.