

HOUSE . . . No. 1064

Bill accompanying the petition of Joseph J. Benson for increased efficiency in fire departments in cities of forty thousand or more inhabitants. Cities. January 20.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen.

AN ACT

Relative to the Division of Fire Departments into Two Bodies or Platoons.

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. The permanent officers and members of
2 companies in the fire department of every city of forty
3 thousand or more inhabitants shall be divided by the com-
4 missioner, board of commissioners, chief of department
5 or other officer having charge of such department into two
6 bodies or platoons; which shall alternate on tours of duty,
7 a night force and a day force.

1 SECTION 2. The hours of duty of the day platoon shall
2 be from eight o'clock ante-meridiem to six o'clock post-
3 meridiem, those of the night platoon from six o'clock post-
4 meridiem to eight o'clock the following morning: *pro-*

5 *vided*, that at definite periods, for the purpose of putting
6 the platoon doing night duty on day duty and vice versa,
7 the number of hours of duty herein stated may be ex-
8 ceeded, but one platoon shall be at liberty at all times ex-
9 cept as otherwise provided in section three.

1 SECTION 3. In cases of riot, serious conflagration or
2 other such emergency the officer or board having charge
3 of such department shall have the power to summon and
4 keep on duty any or all of the members while such emer-
5 gency exists. A conflagration shall not be considered
6 serious within the meaning of this act unless fifty per
7 cent of the apparatus has been summoned to work at the
8 fire.

1 SECTION 4. Officers superior in rank to company offi-
2 cers shall not be required to work or remain in quarters
3 more than eight hours in each twenty-four: *provided*, that
4 they shall be at all times subject to emergency calls or
5 alarms of fire as may be prescribed by the officer or board
6 having charge of such department.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall be submitted to the voters
2 of each city concerned at the next state election for their
3 acceptance or rejection, and shall take effect within ninety
4 days of its acceptance by the voters thereof. Upon this
5 act becoming effective, statutes limiting the number that
6 may be appointed as members in such departments and
7 statutes and ordinances providing days off and meal hours
8 shall become null and void.