

SENATE No. 7

To accompany the petition of Jesse F. Barrett and another relative to the division into day and night forces of members of fire departments. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty.

AN ACT

Relative to the Division into Day and Night Forces of Permanent Members of Fire Departments.

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 one of chapter one hun-
2 dred and thirty-two of the General Acts of nine-
3 teen hundred and nineteen, is hereby amended by
4 adding at the end thereof the following: — The
5 words “fire-fighting force”, as used in this act,
6 shall not include the chief of the fire department
7 or the chief engineer, however described, or
8 persons performing their duties, — so as to read
9 as follows: — *Section 1.* The permanent mem-
10 bers of the uniformed fire-fighting force in every
11 city and town which accepts the provisions of
12 this act shall be divided by the fire commissioner,
13 board of fire commissioners, chief engineer, board

14 of engineers, or other officer or officers having
15 charge of the fire-fighting force, into two bodies or
16 platoons, which shall be designated as a day
17 force and a night force, and the day force and
18 night force shall alternate on tours of duty every
19 third day. The words "fire-fighting force", as
20 used in this act, shall not include the chief of the
21 fire department or the chief engineer, however
22 described, or the officer performing his duties.

1 SECTION 2. Section two of said chapter one
2 hundred and thirty-two is hereby amended by
3 adding at the end thereof the following:— and
4 *provided, further*, that on any day, the members
5 of the platoon on duty shall continue on duty
6 until relieved by the incoming platoon and re-
7 leased by the commanding officer,— so as to
8 read as follows:— *Section 2.* The hours of duty
9 of the day force shall be from eight o'clock ante
10 meridian to six o'clock post meridian, and the
11 hours of duty of the night force shall be from
12 six o'clock post meridian to eight o'clock ante
13 meridian: *provided*, that on every third day, for
14 the purpose of alternating the day force with
15 the night force and vice versa, the number of
16 hours of duty herein stated may be exceeded,
17 but one force shall be at liberty at all times except
18 as is otherwise provided in section three of this
19 act; and *provided, further*, that on any day, the
20 members of the platoon on duty shall continue
21 on duty until relieved by the incoming platoon
22 and released by the commanding officer.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter one hundred and
2 thirty-two is hereby further amended by striking
3 out section three and substituting the following:
4 — *Section 3.* The officer or board having charge
5 of the fire-fighting force shall have full authority
6 to keep on duty and to summon to duty any or
7 all of the fire-fighting force in any grave emer-
8 gency.

1 SECTION 4. In such cities and towns as have
2 accepted the provisions of said chapter one hun-
3 dred and thirty-two this act shall take effect
4 upon its passage.

