

HOUSE No. 1756

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 13, 1924.

The committee on Election Laws, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1301) of Walter R. Meins for legislation relative to the redivision of the city of Boston into wards, report the accompanying bill.

For the committee,

J. C. BRIMBLECOM.

Senator McCORMACK and Representatives CONROY of Fall River, HALLORAN of Boston, CAMPBELL of Boston and SLOWEY of Lowell dissenting.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

An Act relative to the Redivision of the City of Boston into
Wards.

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. There shall be an unpaid commission to
2 redivide the city of Boston into wards, consisting of three
3 senators to be appointed in the first instance by the
4 president of the senate and eight representatives to be
5 appointed in the first instance by the speaker of the house
6 of representatives, all such members to be residents of
7 said city. Any vacancy in said commission shall be filled
8 by the remaining members thereof by electing a senator
9 or representative, as the case may be, who is a resident
10 of said city. At their first meeting, they shall organize
11 by choosing a chairman who shall be one of their number,
12 and a clerk. The city of Boston shall provide them with
13 a suitable office and room for hearings and shall allow
14 and pay a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars for
15 clerk hire, stationery and incidental expenses of said
16 commission. The election department of said city shall
17 at its expense prepare a map of said city showing the
18 number of registered voters in each block therein quali-
19 fied to vote at the nineteen hundred and twenty-four
20 biennial state election and shall on or before December
21 first, nineteen hundred and twenty-four deliver the same
22 to said commission. For the purposes of this act said

23 election department, the assessing department and any
24 other department, board or officer of said city, including
25 the police department, may, and upon request of said
26 commission shall, consult with it and furnish to it all
27 facts and information requested within their knowledge
28 or control, and all the resources and facilities of said city
29 departments, boards or officers, or any of them, shall be
30 available to such commission. Such commission may hold
31 public hearings, may require by summons the attendance
32 and testimony of witnesses and the production of books
33 and papers relating to any matter within the scope of the
34 authority granted by this act. Such summons may be
35 issued, and oaths to witnesses testifying before the com-
36 mission may be administered, by the chairman thereof.

1 SECTION 2. Said commission shall, during the month
2 of December in the year nineteen hundred and twenty-
3 four, make a new division of the territory of said city
4 into not more than thirty-six wards. The boundaries
5 of the wards shall be so arranged that the wards shall
6 contain, as nearly as can be ascertained and as may be
7 consistent with well defined limits to each ward, an equal
8 number of registered voters. Said commission shall forth-
9 with give notice in writing to the city clerk of said city
10 and to the secretary of the commonwealth of the number
11 and designations of the wards as established by it here-
12 under.

1 SECTION 3. For all elections held prior to the nineteen
2 hundred and twenty-six biennial state primary, and for
3 the assessment of taxes prior to such primary, the wards
4 as existing previous to the redivision provided for herein
5 shall continue, and for such purpose the election officers
6 shall be appointed and hold office, and voting lists shall

7 be prepared and all other things required by law shall
8 be done, as if no such redivision had been made. For all
9 other purposes such redivision shall take effect on Janu-
10 ary first, nineteen hundred and twenty-five.

1 SECTION 4. All provisions of law applicable to said
2 city which are inconsistent with this act are hereby
3 repealed.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.