
By Mr. Crowther of Fall River, petition of Thomas C. Crowther for legislation to establish in the city of Fall River a traffic commission and to define its powers and duties. Highways and Motor Vehicles.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty.

An Act to establish the Fall River Traffic Commission and defining its Powers and Duties.

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 is hereby established in the
2 city of Fall River, hereinafter referred to as the city,
3 a commission to consist of a commissioner and four
4 associate commissioners and to be known as the Fall
5 River traffic commission, hereinafter referred to as
6 the commission. The commissioner, who shall be
7 chairman of the commission, shall be appointed by
8 the mayor of the city, shall serve for a term of two
9 years and until the qualification of his successor,
10 and shall receive no compensation for such service.
11 The chairman of the board of police, the city engi-
12 neer, the superintendent of streets and the chairman
13 of the park and recreation commission, shall be, ex
14 officio, the associate commissioners and shall receive
15 no compensation for their services as such associate
16 commissioners; but all the expenses of the commis-
17 sion incurred for the purposes of this act shall be

18 paid by the city. For said purposes the commis-
19 sion may, subject to the provisions of the city charter
20 and to chapter thirty-one of the General Laws and
21 the rules and regulations made thereunder, employ
22 engineers, experts, assistants and other officers and
23 employees.

1 SECTION 2. The commission shall have exclusive
2 authority, except as otherwise herein provided, to
3 adopt, amend, alter and repeal rules and regulations,
4 not inconsistent with general law as modified by this
5 act, relative to vehicular street traffic in the city,
6 and to the movement, stopping or standing of vehicles
7 on, and their exclusion from, all or any streets, ways,
8 highways, roads and parkways, under the control
9 of the city, including rules and regulations designating
10 any way or part thereof under said control as a through
11 way under and subject to the provisions of section
12 nine of chapter eighty-nine of the General Laws, as
13 amended, and may prescribe penalties not exceeding
14 fifty dollars for the violation of any rule or regulation
15 adopted hereunder. No such rule or regulation,
16 except such special rules and regulations as are de-
17 clared by vote of the commission to be urgently
18 required by considerations of public safety or conven-
19 ience or such as are of a temporary nature and are
20 to be effective for a period of not more than two
21 weeks, shall take effect until published for two suc-
22 cessive weeks in a newspaper published in the city.
23 Upon petition of twenty-five registered voters of
24 the city relative to any rule or regulation adopted or
25 proposed to be adopted under this section, the com-
26 mission shall hold a public hearing thereon within
27 thirty days after the filing with the commission of

28 such petition, and final action thereon shall be deter-
29 mined only by vote of a majority of the entire mem-
30 bership of the commission. The commission shall
31 have power to erect, make and maintain, or cause to
32 be erected, made and maintained, traffic signs, signals,
33 markings and other devices for the control of such
34 traffic in the city and for informing and warning the
35 public as to rules and regulations adopted hereunder,
36 subject, however, to section two of chapter eighty-
37 five, and to sections eight and nine of said chapter
38 eighty-nine, of the General Laws, as amended. Noth-
39 ing in this act shall be construed to authorize the
40 commission to adopt any rule or regulation excluding
41 the cars of a street railway company from any way
42 or part thereof in which it has a location, or to modify
43 or limit any power or authority of the state depart-
44 ment of public works or of the state department of
45 public utilities, or any power now vested in the board
46 of police to regulate street uses under licenses or
47 permits granted by said commission.

1 SECTION 3. All existing rules and regulations of
2 the street department, the park and recreation com-
3 mission, the board of police or any other public board
4 or official of the city relating to the control of vehicular
5 traffic, shall remain in full force and effect until
6 amended, revised or repealed by the commission
7 under this act, and any amendment, revision or
8 repeal of such a rule or regulation or the adoption of
9 any new rule or regulation by the commission shall
10 not affect any act done, any right accrued, any penalty
11 incurred, or any suit, prosecution or proceeding pend-
12 ing at the time of said amendment, revision, repeal
13 or adoption.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its
2 acceptance, during the current year, by said city, in
3 accordance with the provisions of its charter, but not
4 otherwise; provided, that for the purposes of such
5 acceptance only, this act shall take effect upon its
6 passage.