

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 208.

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[Bill accompanying the petition of William S. McNary for legislation to consolidate the board of aldermen and common council of the city of Boston and to reorganize the government of said city. Metropolitan Affairs. January 20.]

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Two.

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### AN ACT

To consolidate the Board of Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Boston and to reorganize the Government of said City.

*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 elected by the  
2 registered voters of the city of Boston at every  
3 annual municipal election, under the same pro-  
4 visions of law so far as applicable as those under  
5 which the mayor of said city is now elected, a  
6 president of the city council for the term of one  
7 year.

1 SECTION 2. There shall also be elected, as  
2 aforesaid, at said election in the current year,  
3 twelve aldermen at large, six for the term of two  
4 years and six for the term of one year, and at  
5 every subsequent annual municipal election there  
6 shall be elected as aforesaid six aldermen at large  
7 for the term of two years, and such other alder-  
8 men at large for the unexpired balances of terms  
9 as may be necessary to fill vacancies.

1 SECTION 3. There shall also be elected by the  
2 registered voters of each of the twenty-five  
3 wards of said city at every annual municipal  
4 election, under the same provisions of law so far  
5 as applicable as those under which members of  
6 the common council of said city are now elected,  
7 one ward alderman for the term of one year.

1 SECTION 4. The president, twelve aldermen at  
2 large and twenty-five ward aldermen, elected as  
3 aforesaid, shall sit and act as one legislative body  
4 and shall constitute the city council of the city of  
5 Boston. The term of each of said members of  
6 the city council shall begin with the first Monday  
7 of January next following his election, and on  
8 said day the members elect shall meet and be  
9 sworn as now provided for members elect of the  
10 city council of said city.

1 SECTION 5. A political party entitled to make  
2 nominations to be placed on the official election  
3 ballot may make nominations for president of the

4 city council, aldermen at large and ward alder-  
5 men, to be placed on such ballot only by direct  
6 plurality vote at party caucuses held in the  
7 several wards; nominations for president of the  
8 city council or for aldermen at large, to be placed  
9 on the official ballot for such caucuses, may be  
10 made only by nomination papers bearing the  
11 signatures of at least one registered voter for  
12 every two hundred cast for mayor at the next  
13 preceding election of a mayor and filed with the  
14 board of election commissioners, as now required  
15 by law to be filed with the city committee of the  
16 political party, instead of with such committee;  
17 nominations for ward aldermen to be placed on  
18 such caucus ballot may be made only by nomina-  
19 tion papers bearing the signatures of at least fifty  
20 registered voters in the ward, filed with the board  
21 of election commissioners as aforesaid; nomina-  
22 tions for aldermen at large to be placed on such  
23 caucus ballot shall not specify for what term the  
24 candidates are nominated, but the several candi-  
25 dates receiving respectively the largest number of  
26 votes at such caucuses shall be the nominees for  
27 the longest term to be filled, and those respec-  
28 tively receiving the next largest number of votes  
29 shall be the nominees for the next longest term  
30 to be filled, and if a tie vote between two or more  
31 candidates prevents such assignments of terms it  
32 shall be made by lot, publicly drawn by the board  
33 of election commissioners of said city. No per-  
34 son shall sign nomination papers for more can-  
35 didates than there are nominations to be made.

1 SECTION 6. Nominations by nomination papers  
2 for president of the city council and aldermen  
3 at large, to be placed on the official election  
4 ballot, may be made only by such papers bearing  
5 the signatures of at least one registered voter for  
6 every one hundred votes cast for mayor at the  
7 next preceding election of a mayor, the nomina-  
8 tion papers of aldermen at large specifying the  
9 terms for which the respective candidates are  
10 nominated; nominations by nomination papers for  
11 ward aldermen, to be placed on the official election  
12 ballot, may be so made only by such papers bear-  
13 ing the signatures of at least one hundred regis-  
14 tered voters of the ward. No person shall sign  
15 nomination papers for more candidates than there  
16 are offices to be filled.

1 SECTION 7. The board of election commis-  
2 sioners shall have the same powers and perform  
3 the same duties in relation to counting, tabulating  
4 and determining the votes cast at several caucuses,  
5 as they have in relation to votes cast in the  
6 several precincts at elections; and all provisions  
7 of law relating to caucus and election nomination  
8 papers, nominations and caucuses, not inconsistent  
9 with the provisions of this act, shall apply to  
10 nomination papers, nominations and caucuses for  
11 the offices hereby created.

1 SECTION 8. The president of the city council  
2 shall when present preside at the meetings thereof;  
3 shall from time to time designate some member

4 thereof to preside in his absence and when he  
5 leaves the chair; shall appoint the chairman and  
6 other members of committees to the number fixed  
7 by the city council; shall be a member of every  
8 committee, and chairman of every committee  
9 authorized to recommend appropriations or to  
10 prepare rules; shall have the direction of the  
11 officers appointed by him or subject to his ap-  
12 proval or elected by the city council; and may  
13 remove them for such cause as he may deem suffi-  
14 cient and shall assign in his order of removal; shall  
15 serve as acting mayor in the same manner as the  
16 chairman of the board of aldermen of a city is  
17 authorized by general law to serve in such capac-  
18 ity, and his succession to the office of mayor shall  
19 constitute a vacancy in the office of president;  
20 and shall in the month of November of each year  
21 make a report, which shall be printed as a city  
22 document, giving a summary of the work of the  
23 city council for the current municipal year.

1 SECTION 9. The president may appoint and  
2 fix the compensation, not exceeding fifteen hun-  
3 dred dollars per annum, of one clerk, and may,  
4 by requisition on the superintendent of printing,  
5 provide necessary stationery, printing and docu-  
6 ments. The city council shall annually elect a  
7 clerk of the city council, who shall receive an  
8 annual salary not exceeding three thousand dol-  
9 lars, and who shall keep its records, and who  
10 shall appoint, subject to the approval of the presi-  
11 dent, necessary messengers, clerks and employees,

12 but in appointing or electing such messengers,  
13 clerks and employees, and furnishing stationery,  
14 printing and documents as aforesaid, the appro-  
15 priation made for expenses of the city council for  
16 "employees and supplies" shall not be exceeded.  
17 The salary of the president, paid in monthly pay-  
18 ments, shall be five thousand dollars per annum,  
19 or such smaller salary as the city council shall by  
20 ordinance prescribe, no change of such to take  
21 effect during the municipal year in which the  
22 change is made; each of the other members of  
23 the city council shall be paid in monthly pay-  
24 ments a salary of twelve hundred dollars per  
25 annum, and such further sum, not exceeding  
26 twenty-five dollars in any one month, as he shall  
27 certify has been incurred and paid by him as ex-  
28 penses in the performance of his official duties.  
29 No money shall be paid out of the city treasury  
30 for expenses of the city council, or of any com-  
31 mittee thereof, or to or for the compensation or  
32 expenses of any member of the city council or  
33 any officer or employee appointed by the presi-  
34 dent of the city council except as provided in  
35 this section.

1 SECTION 10. The city council shall be the  
2 judge of the election and qualification of its mem-  
3 bers; shall from time to time establish rules for  
4 its proceedings; shall, when a vacancy occurs in  
5 the office of president, elect by vote of a majority  
6 of the members, some registered voter of said  
7 city not then a member to be president of the city

8 council for the remainder of the municipal year;  
9 shall, when a vacancy occurs in the office of any  
10 member, elect by vote of a majority of all the  
11 members a registered voter of said city to fill the  
12 vacancy for the remainder of the municipal year;  
13 shall have and exercise all the powers, authorities  
14 and duties, not inconsistent with this act, held  
15 under special laws by the mayor and aldermen or  
16 board of aldermen of said city, acting as county  
17 commissioners, or as other public officers, or as a  
18 branch of the city council, or by the city council,  
19 or the common council of said city, or held by  
20 the mayor and aldermen or the board of aldermen  
21 of cities under general laws; and all general  
22 laws and parts of general laws relating to alder-  
23 men or the members of the common council of  
24 the city of Boston, as far as they are not incon-  
25 sistent with the provisions of this act, shall apply  
26 to the members of the city council created by  
27 this act. The mayor of said city may at any  
28 time address the city council in person.

1 SECTION 11. All acts and parts of acts pro-  
2 viding for the election of aldermen and members  
3 of the common council of said city, or incon-  
4 sistent with this act, are hereby repealed, and all  
5 ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent  
6 with this act are hereby annulled.

1 SECTION 12. This act shall be submitted for  
2 the acceptance of the voters of said city at the  
3 annual state election in the current year, and if

4 accepted by a majority of the votes cast at such  
5 election the provisions relating to the nomination  
6 and election of members of the city council shall  
7 take effect on such acceptance, and this act shall  
8 take full effect on the first Monday of January in  
9 the year nineteen hundred and three.