

HOUSE No. 17.

Bill accompanying the petition of William J. Tyler and another for legislation relative to the redivision of wards in cities. Cities. January 9.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five.

AN ACT

Relative to the Redivision of Wards in Cities.

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 hundred and sixty-
2 one of chapter eleven of the Revised Laws is
3 hereby amended by striking out the whole of said
4 section and inserting in place thereof the follow-
5 ing:—

6 *Section 161.* A city may and all cities of two
7 hundred thousand inhabitants or over shall in the
8 year nineteen hundred and five and in every tenth
9 year thereafter, before the first day of May, by
10 vote of its city council make a new division of its

11 territory into such number of wards as may be
12 fixed by law. The boundaries of such wards shall
13 be so arranged that the wards shall contain, as
14 nearly as can be ascertained and as may be con-
15 sistent with well defined limits to each ward, an
16 equal number of voters. A two-thirds vote of the
17 entire membership of each branch of the city
18 council shall be necessary in order to redivide a
19 city of two hundred thousand inhabitants or over
20 into wards. If, in cities of two hundred thousand
21 inhabitants or over within sixty days from the date
22 of such redivision, one hundred voters of a ward
23 shall file a petition in the supreme judicial court
24 alleging that there has been a clear and palpable
25 breach of section one hundred and sixty-one with
26 reference to the boundaries of a ward, the supreme
27 judicial court shall determine the question and
28 upon its decision in the affirmative sustaining the
29 petition, the city council shall within thirty days
30 thereafter make a new redivision of wards in con-
31 formity to the provisions of this section.

32 The city clerk shall forthwith give notice in
33 writing to the secretary of the Commonwealth of
34 the number and designations of the wards as
35 established.

1 SECTION 2. All acts and parts of acts incon-
2 sistent herewith are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.