

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 279.

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Bill accompanying the petition of Henry O. Sawyer, mayor, for various amendments of the charter of the city of Fitchburg. Cities. January 19.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five

### AN ACT

To amend the Charter of the City of Fitchburg.

*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 two of chapter eighty-one  
2 of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and  
3 seventy-two is hereby amended by striking out  
4 the word "six," in the fourth line, and inserting  
5 the word: — seven; also by striking out the word  
6 "eighteen," in the fifth line, and inserting the  
7 word: — twenty-one, — so as to read as follows: —  
8 The administration of all the fiscal, prudential,  
9 and municipal affairs of the said city, with the  
10 government thereof, shall be vested in one officer,

11 to be called the mayor, one council of seven, to be  
12 called the board of aldermen, and one council of  
13 twenty-one to be called the common council; which  
14 boards in their joint capacity shall be denominated  
15 the city council, and the members thereof shall be  
16 sworn to the faithful performance of their respec-  
17 tive duties. A majority of each board shall con-  
18 stitute a quorum for the transaction of business,  
19 and no member of either board shall receive any  
20 compensation for his services.

1 SECTION 2. Section three of the said chapter is  
2 hereby stricken out and in place thereof the fol-  
3 lowing section inserted:—

4 *Section 3.* The city council may after the pas-  
5 sage of this act divide the said city into seven  
6 wards so that they shall contain as nearly as may  
7 be consistent with well defined limits to each ward  
8 an equal number of voters in each ward. The city  
9 council may in the year nineteen hundred and  
10 ten, and in every fifth year thereafter, make a new  
11 division of city wards so that they shall contain,  
12 as nearly as may be consistent with well defined  
13 limits to each ward, an equal number of voters in  
14 each ward.

1 SECTION 3. Section eight of said chapter is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the word “six,”  
3 in the first line, and inserting in place thereof the  
4 word:—seven,— so as to read as follows:—

5 Seven aldermen, one alderman being selected  
6 from each ward, shall be elected by the qualified

7 voters of the city at large, voting in their re-  
8 spective wards, who shall hold their offices for  
9 the municipal year next following their election,  
10 and until a majority of the new board shall be  
11 elected and qualified in their places.

1 SECTION 4. Section twenty-one of the said  
2 chapter is hereby amended by inserting after the  
3 words "seventy-three," in line seventh, the  
4 following clause:—the qualified voters of the  
5 additional ward which is authorized under the  
6 provisions of this act shall on the first Tuesday  
7 of December, in the year nineteen hundred and  
8 six, elect by ballot three persons in said ward,  
9 who shall be residents of said ward, to be mem-  
10 bers of the school committee; one for three years,  
11 one for two years, and one for one year, from the  
12 first Monday of January, in the year nineteen  
13 hundred and seven; and by further inserting  
14 after the words "next ensuing," in the twelfth  
15 line of said section, the following:—*provided,*  
16 *however,* that the members of the school com-  
17 mittee who hold office at the time of division of  
18 wards herein authorized, shall continue to hold said  
19 office as representatives of the wards from which  
20 they were chosen until the expiration of the term  
21 for which they were chosen, — so as to read:—

22 *Section 21.* The qualified voters of each ward  
23 shall, on the first Tuesday of December, in the  
24 year eighteen hundred and seventy-two, elect by  
25 ballot three persons in each ward, who shall be  
26 residents of said ward, to be members of the

27 school committee, one for three years, one for  
28 two years, and one for one year, from the first  
29 Monday of January, in the year eighteen hundred  
30 and seventy-three; the qualified voters of the  
31 additional ward which is authorized under the  
32 provisions of this act shall, on the first day of  
33 December, in the year nineteen hundred and five,  
34 elect by ballot three persons in said ward, who  
35 shall be residents of said ward, to be members of  
36 the school committee; one for three years, one  
37 for two years, and one for one year, from the first  
38 Monday of January, in the year nineteen hundred  
39 and six; and thereafter on the first Tuesday of  
40 December, annually, there shall be elected in the  
41 same manner one person in each ward, who shall  
42 be a resident of said ward, who shall hold his  
43 office for the term of three years from the first  
44 Monday of January next ensuing: *provided,*  
45 *however,* that the members of the school com-  
46 mittee who hold office at the time of division of  
47 wards herein authorized, shall continue to hold said  
48 office as representatives of the wards from which  
49 they were chosen until the expiration of the term  
50 for which they were chosen. The persons so  
51 elected shall, with the mayor and president of the  
52 common council, constitute the board of school  
53 committee, and shall serve without compensation.  
54 The mayor shall be ex-officio chairman of the board.  
55 The said committee shall appoint from their own  
56 number, or otherwise, a secretary, to be under the  
57 direction and control of said committee, the  
58 superintendent of the schools, and the compensa-

59 tion of such secretary shall be determined from  
60 year to year by the school committee. Vacancies  
61 occurring in the board may be filled by the joint  
62 ballot of the city council and school committee at  
63 any time, the member so elected to hold office  
64 only for the remainder of the municipal year.  
65 All the rights and obligations of said town of  
66 Fitchburg, in relation to the grant and appro-  
67 priations of money to the support of schools, and  
68 the special powers and authority heretofore con-  
69 ferred by law upon the inhabitants of said town  
70 to raise money for the support of schools therein,  
71 shall be merged in the powers and obligations of  
72 the city, to be exercised in the same manner as  
73 over other subjects of taxation; and all grants  
74 and appropriations of money for the support of  
75 schools, and the erection and repair of school  
76 houses in said city, shall be made by the city  
77 council in the same manner as grants and appro-  
78 priations are made for other city purposes.

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

