

HOUSE No. 1858

By Mr. Petersen of Springfield, petition of Roger L. Putnam (mayor), the board of aldermen and the common council that the city of Springfield be authorized to provide for a unicameral city council. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A UNICAMERAL CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD IF ADOPTED BY VOTERS OF SPRINGFIELD AT CITY ELECTION IN NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE.

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. The administration of the fiscal, pru-
2 dential, and municipal affairs of the city of Spring-
3 field, and the government thereof, shall be vested in
4 one principal officer, to be styled the mayor; and in
5 one council of seventeen, to be called the board of
6 aldermen: and the members thereof shall be sworn
7 to the faithful performance of the duties of their
8 respective offices. The mayor shall preside at the
9 meetings of said board. One of its members shall be
10 elected by the said board as its president. A ma-
11 jority of such board shall constitute a quorum for the
12 transaction of business, and no member thereof shall
13 receive any compensation for his services. All the

14 powers now vested by law in the city of Springfield,
15 or in the inhabitants thereof, as a municipal corpora-
16 tion, shall be vested in such board.

1 SECTION 2. Upon the death, resignation or absence
2 of the mayor, or his inability to perform the duties of
3 his office, the president of the board of aldermen shall
4 perform them, or, if the president of the board of
5 aldermen is absent or unable from any cause to per-
6 form such duties they shall be performed by such
7 alderman as the board of aldermen may from time to
8 time elect, until the mayor or the president of the
9 board of aldermen is able to attend to said duties or
10 until the vacancy is filled as hereinafter provided.
11 The person upon whom such duties devolve shall be
12 called "acting mayor" and shall possess the powers
13 of mayor only in matters not admitting of delay, and
14 shall not make permanent appointments.

15 If a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor, the
16 board of aldermen shall by vote so declare, stating
17 the cause thereof, and, if at the time such vacancy
18 occurs the unexpired term of said office is more than
19 one year, the board of aldermen shall forthwith order
20 an election by the qualified voters of the city for a
21 mayor to serve during the balance of the term; but
22 if the unexpired term of said office is less than one
23 year, the board of aldermen shall elect a person of
24 the same political or municipal party as the person
25 whom he succeeds to serve as mayor during the
26 balance of the term.

1 SECTION 3. The board of aldermen shall consist of
2 two qualified voters of each ward, one elected by the
3 qualified voters of the ward, one elected by the

4 qualified voters of the city, and one qualified voter
5 of the city elected at large, voting in their respective
6 precincts. If there is a vacancy in the board of alder-
7 men it may be filled by a majority vote of the board.
8 The person so elected shall be of the same political or
9 municipal party as the person whom he succeeds and
10 if such person whom he succeeds shall have been
11 elected by the qualified voters of a ward and from
12 that ward he who shall be elected to fill such vacancy
13 shall be a qualified voter and resident of that ward;
14 otherwise he shall be a qualified voter of the city and
15 in either event the person so elected shall hold office
16 until his successor shall be elected and qualified. His
17 successor shall be elected at the next city election.

1 SECTION 4. The provisions of this act so far as
2 they are the same as those of chapter ninety-four of
3 the acts of eighteen hundred and fifty-two, and of
4 chapter one hundred and forty-one of the acts of nine-
5 teen hundred and thirty-six, and acts in addition
6 thereto and amendment thereof, so far as they are
7 the same, shall be construed as a continuance thereof
8 and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith,
9 are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall be submitted for ac-
2 ceptance to the qualified voters of the city of Spring-
3 field at the city election in the current year in the
4 form of the following question which shall be placed
5 upon the official ballot to be used in said city at said
6 election: "Shall an act of the general court passed
7 in the current year, entitled 'An act providing a uni-
8 cameral city council for the city of Springfield', be
9 accepted?" If a majority of the voters voting thereon

10 vote in the affirmative in answer to said question then
11 this act shall take effect for the nomination and elec-
12 tion of municipal officers in the year nineteen hun-
13 dred and forty-one, and for all other purposes it shall
14 take effect upon the organization of the city govern-
15 ment on the day following the first Monday in
16 January, nineteen hundred and forty-two.