

By Mr. Sears of Boston, petition of John W. Sears for legislation to create ward councils in certain cities. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven.

AN ACT CREATING WARD COUNCILS IN LARGE 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 5 of chapter 40 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after clause (60), inserted by chapter 247
3 of the acts of 1966, the following clause:—

4 (61) Any city in the commonwealth whose population ex-
5 ceeds one hundred thousand may establish ward councils
6 which shall have the powers and duties conferred upon them
7 by law. Each ward council shall comprise five registered voters
8 elected for a two year term by those residents within the ward
9 duly qualified to vote. Each ward council shall meet at least
10 once a month and shall report to the city council four times
11 a year on condition of the ward and the needs and desires of
12 the residents. Each ward council shall have the power to sum-
13 mon witnesses, including department heads and other city em-
14 ployees. The city council may, with the approval of the mayor,
15 allot funds to meet the clerical and other reasonable expenses
16 of the ward council.

17 Candidates for the ward council must be residents of the
18 ward at the time of their election, and must be nominated by
19 at least fifty citizens duly registered to vote within the ward.
20 The names of certified candidates for the ward council shall
21 appear without party designation on the ballot at the prelim-
22 inary election for city councillors, and the candidates, up to
23 but not exceeding ten, who have the most votes at the prelim-
24 inary election shall be declared to be nominated for the final
25 election. The five nominees obtaining the most votes in the
26 subsequent final election shall be declared elected. Each voter,

27 in the preliminary and final election, may vote for up to five
28 candidates. In the event that there be less than five candidates
29 in any ward, the candidates certified for nomination shall be
30 declared elected and shall fill out their membership, up to five,
31 by cooption.

32 Each ward council shall, immediately upon coming into
33 office, or upon the death, resignation, or removal of its chair-
34 man or secretary, elect a chairman and secretary who shall
35 serve for one year. Ward councillors shall be exempted from
36 real property taxes during the term of their service, but shall
37 pay all other municipal charges.

38 The city clerk shall circularize registered voters in each
39 ward at least two weeks in advance of the preliminary election,
40 and shall furnish brief descriptions of each of the candidates.