
By Mr. Buckley of Abington, petition of John J. Franey for legislation to remove the town of Cohasset from the jurisdiction of Norfolk County and placing said town within the judicial district of Plymouth County. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE TOWN OF COHASSET FROM THE JURISDICTION OF NORFOLK COUNTY AND TO PLACE THE SAME WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY.

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 territory now comprised within the limits
2 of the town of Cohasset, with the inhabitants and estates
3 therein, shall hereafter constitute a part of Plymouth
4 county.

1 SECTION 2. The several courts within the county of
2 Plymouth, after this act takes effect, shall have the same
3 jurisdiction over all causes of action and proceedings in civil
4 causes, and over all matters in probate and insolvency which
5 shall have accrued within said territory, that said courts now
6 have over like actions, proceedings and matters within the
7 county of Plymouth; provided, however, that the several
8 courts within the county of Norfolk shall have and retain
9 jurisdiction of all actions, proceedings and matters that shall
10 have rightfully been begun in said courts before this act takes
11 effect; and the supreme judicial court and the superior court
12 within the county of Plymouth after this act takes effect,
13 shall have the same jurisdiction of all crimes, offences and
14 misdemeanors that shall have been committed within the said
15 territory, which the supreme judicial court and superior court
16 within the county of Norfolk now have jurisdiction of;
17 provided, that proceedings shall not have begun in any of the

18 courts within the county of Norfolk for the prosecution of
19 said crimes, offences and misdemeanors, in which case the
20 said courts within the county of Norfolk shall have and retain
21 jurisdiction of the same for the complete and final disposition
22 thereof. All suits, proceedings, complaints and prosecutions,
23 and all matters of probate and insolvency, which shall be
24 pending within said territory before any court when this act
25 takes effect shall be heard and determined as if this act had
26 not been enacted.

1 SECTION 3. Said territory shall be added to and constitute a
2 part of the judicial district of the second district court of
3 Plymouth. Said court shall have the same civil and criminal
4 jurisdiction in said territory which that court now has in its
5 present district.

1 SECTION 4. All the interest which the town of Cohasset now
2 has in the public property of the county of Norfolk is hereby
3 released and acquitted to the county of Norfolk. Such
4 proportion of the debts and obligations of the county of
5 Norfolk existing when this act takes full effect, over and
6 above the value of all the property belonging to said county,
7 as should proportionally and equitably be paid by the
8 inhabitants and property owners of the said territory shall be
9 paid by the county of Plymouth to the county of Norfolk;
10 and the supreme judicial court shall have jurisdiction in
11 equity to determine the amount of such proportion, if any,
12 and to enforce the payment of the same in a suit in equity in
13 the name of said county to be brought therefor within six
14 months after this act takes effect, by the county commis-
15 sioners of said county, if they shall deem such suit for the
16 interest of the county; but no such suit shall be instituted
17 after the lapse of the said six months. Nothing contained in
18 this act shall impair the obligation of any contract; and the
19 property and inhabitants of the said territory, shall continue
20 liable to the existing creditors of the county of Norfolk in like
21 manner as if this act had not been passed; provided, that if
22 any person by reason of his being an inhabitant of or owning
23 property in said territory shall be compelled to pay any part
24 of an existing debt or obligation of the county of Norfolk, the

25 amount of such payment shall constitute a debt to him from
26 said county, as constituted after the passage of this act, and
27 may be recovered in like manner as other debts against the
28 county of Norfolk.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall be submitted to the qualified
2 voters of the town of Cohasset for acceptance at the annual
3 town meeting to be held in the year nineteen hundred and
4 sixty-nine in the form of the following question which shall
5 be placed upon the official ballot to be used at said
6 meeting:—

7 “Shall an act passed by the General Court in the year
8 nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, entitled ‘An Act to remove
9 the town of Cohasset from the jurisdiction of Norfolk County
10 and to place the same within the jurisdiction of Plymouth
11 County,’ be accepted? If a majority of the votes in answer to
12 said question is in the affirmative, this act shall thereupon
13 take effect immediately but not otherwise.”

1 SECTION 6. Section 1 of chapter 218 of the General Laws, as
2 most recently amended by section 4 of chapter 715 of the acts
3 of 1960, is hereby further amended by striking out all after
4 the caption “*Norfolk*” and inserting in place thereof the
5 following:—

6 The district court of northern Norfolk, held at Dedham;
7 Dedham, Dover, Norwood, Westwood, Medfield, Needham
8 and Wellesley.

9 The district court of East Norfolk, held at Quincy; Quincy,
10 Randolph, Braintree, Weymouth, Holbrook and Milton; and,
11 in criminal cases, concurrently with the second district court
12 of Plymouth, that part of Scituate described in chapter three
13 hundred and ninety-four of the acts of nineteen hundred and
14 twelve. This provision shall not increase the judicial district
15 of said court for the purposes of section seventy-eight.

16 The district court of southern Norfolk, held at Stoughton;
17 Stoughton, Avon, Canton and Sharon.

18 The district court of western Norfolk, held at Wrentham;
19 Franklin, Walpole, Bellingham, Foxborough, Medway,
20 Millis, Norfolk, Wrentham and Plainville.

21 The municipal court of Brookline, held at Brookline;
22 Brookline.

1 SECTION 7. Said section 1 of said chapter 218 is hereby
2 amended by striking out the first paragraph under the
3 caption "*Plymouth*," as most recently amended by chapter
4 198 of the acts of 1963, and inserting in place thereof the
5 following paragraph:—

6 The second district court of Plymouth, held at Hingham;
7 Abington, Hingham, Whitman, Rockland, Hull, Hanover,
8 Scituate, Norwell, Hanson and Cohasset.