

petition for such submission has been filed with the city clerk or election commissioners in the manner aforesaid.

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

SECTION 4. This act shall not apply to the city of Quincy.

Approved February 24, 1954.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DATE UPON WHICH BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, EXCEPT THE STATE HOUSE, OWNED OR OCCUPIED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OR ANY OF ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SHALL COMPLY WITH CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAW RELATING TO THE SAFETY OF PERSONS IN BUILDINGS. Chap.153

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Chapter 582 of the acts of 1948 is hereby amended by striking out section 3, and inserting in place thereof the following section: — *Section 3.* This act shall take effect on July first, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven.

Approved February 24, 1954.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF QUINCY TO LEASE CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE PROPERTY ACQUIRED BY IT FROM THE NEW YORK, NEW HAVEN AND HARTFORD RAILROAD COMPANY. Chap.154

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The city of Quincy is hereby authorized to lease to private interests, for a term not to exceed fifty years, such portions of the property acquired by it from the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company as are not deemed necessary for public use and occupancy.

SECTION 2. This act shall take full effect upon its acceptance by vote of the city council of said city, subject to the provisions of its charter, but not otherwise.

Approved February 24, 1954.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARDS OF APPEAL UNDER CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATING TO CITY CHARTERS. Chap.155

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Chapter 43 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 9, as most recently amended by section 5 of chapter 459 of the acts of 1948, and inserting in place thereof the following section: — *Section 9.* Within seventy days after the petition has been filed with him by the petitioners the city clerk shall, except as provided in section ten, transmit a certified copy thereof to the city council, except that the signatures upon the petition need not be copied but in place thereof the city clerk shall state the number of signatures of registered voters thereon, certified as such by the registrars of voters. If any question arises as to the validity or sufficiency of the petition or of the signatures thereon, any registered voter of the city may appeal for a determination

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 43, § 9, etc., amended.

Judicial review of proceedings of boards of appeal in certain cases.

of said question to the applicable board referred to in section twelve of chapter fifty-three, by filing a notice of such appeal with the city council and with the clerk of the board of registrars of voters within eighty days after the date the petition was filed with the city clerk by the petitioners, and the board so appealed to shall within thirty days render a decision thereon. The board shall submit notice of its decision forthwith to the city council.

Any person aggrieved by the decision of the board under this section may appeal to the superior court sitting in equity, for the county in which the city is located; provided, that such appeal is filed in said court within ten days after such decision is rendered. It shall hear all pertinent evidence and determine the facts and, upon the facts as so determined, annul such decision if found to be erroneous in law or not warranted by the evidence, or make such other decree as justice and equity may require. The foregoing remedy shall be exclusive, but the parties shall have all rights of appeal and exception as in other equity cases.

Costs.

No costs shall be allowed against the board unless the court finds that it acted with gross negligence or in bad faith.

Question to be placed on official ballot.

Within ten days after the expiration of said period of eighty days, if no appeal has been taken, or after receipt of a decision on any appeal in favor of the validity or sufficiency of such petition or signatures, as the case may be, the city council shall, unless the number of valid signatures certified to it is found to be less than the number required by section seven, transmit such certified copy to the city clerk. If said certified copy is so transmitted to the city clerk at least thirty days before the regular city election, the question proposed by the petition shall be submitted upon the official ballot to a vote of the registered voters of the city at said regular city election, otherwise it shall be submitted at the regular city election next following the aforesaid election.

Approved February 24, 1954.

Chap. 156 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT TO THE STENOGRAPHER IN THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 6, § 6, amended.

Assistant to the stenographer in the executive department, authorized.

Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 6, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section: — *Section 6.* The governor, with the advice and consent of the council, may appoint an executive secretary, a stenographer, an assistant to the stenographer and a messenger, each of whom shall hold office during the pleasure of the governor and council, shall perform the duties required of him by the governor or by the governor and council, and shall receive such salary as may be fixed by the governor and council, not exceeding the sum annually appropriated therefor by the general court.

Approved February 24, 1954.