

such masks, in the case of towns having a population of four thousand or less and at least four such masks in all other towns, in proper working condition, shall be ready for use at each fire.

Effective date.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July first in the current year.

Approved June 28, 1949.

Chap. 468 AN ACT MAKING LOCAL HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT REQUIRED SUBJECTS OF INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 71, § 2, etc., amended.

Local history and government to be required teaching in certain schools.

Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 2, as amended by section 1 of chapter 246 of the acts of 1938, and inserting in place thereof the following: — *Section 2.* In all public elementary and high schools American history and civics, including the constitution of the United States, and in all public high schools the constitution of the commonwealth and local history and government, shall be taught as required subjects for the purpose of promoting civic service and a greater knowledge thereof, and of fitting the pupils, morally and intellectually, for the duties of citizenship.

Approved June 28, 1949.

Chap. 469 AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE AUTHORITY OF CITIES AND TOWNS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY HOUSING FOR VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 1 of chapter 568 of the acts of 1946 is hereby amended by striking out, in line 14, the word "five" and inserting in place thereof the word: — eight, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 1.* It is hereby declared that an acute shortage of housing exists in many of the cities and towns of the commonwealth; that on account of such shortage many veterans of World War II are unable to obtain shelter for themselves and their families regardless of their ability to pay for such shelter; that on account of the extent of the deficiency in housing and the difficulty in obtaining building materials it is likely that this shortage will continue for a substantial period; that on this account a time of public exigency, emergency and distress now exists so that the providing of shelter is a public function; and each city or town in which such shortage exists is hereby authorized to provide shelter for such of its inhabitants as are veterans of said war in the manner hereinafter designated for a period of eight years from the date when this act becomes operative unless the general court shall previously determine that the time of public exigency, emergency and distress has ended, which period is hereinafter referred to as the present emergency.

Approved June 28, 1949.