

of the board and said commissioner, lowered its standards below that established by the board and said commissioner, such certificate, after notice and hearing, may be revoked by the board and said commissioner.

Approved April 9, 1946.

Chap. 195 AN ACT PROVIDING A PREFERENCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS SERVING ON TENURE WHEN A REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF TEACHERS IS NECESSARY BY REASON OF A DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PUPILS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 71, § 42, etc., amended.

Preference to teachers serving on tenure when decrease in number of pupils.

Section forty-two of chapter seventy-one of the General Laws, as amended by chapter one hundred and twenty-three of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-four, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "advisable" in the twenty-seventh line the following sentence:— In case a decrease in the number of pupils in the schools of a town renders advisable the dismissal of one or more teachers, a teacher who is serving at the discretion of a school committee under section forty-one shall not be dismissed if there is a teacher not serving at discretion whose position the teacher serving at discretion is qualified to fill.

Approved April 9, 1946.

Chap. 196 AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING ABSENT REGISTRATION FOR VOTING BY THOSE WHO BY REASON OF PHYSICAL DISABILITY ARE UNABLE TO MAKE APPLICATION IN PERSON AT SESSIONS CALLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGISTERING VOTERS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 51, § 22A, etc., amended.

Absent registration officers.

SECTION 1. Chapter fifty-one of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section twenty-two A, inserted by section two of chapter seven hundred and fifteen of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-five, and inserting in place thereof the following section:— *Section 22A.* In every city and town the registrars of voters, or, in case the selectmen constitute the board of registrars of voters, the selectmen, may, before every election at which absent voting is permitted, appoint a sufficient number of absent registration officers who in addition to the registrars and the assistant registrars may attend persons claiming to have the qualifications for voting in their respective cities and towns, but who, by reason of physical disability, are unable to apply in person for registration, to examine such persons relative to their qualifications for voting and to register such of said persons as they find to be qualified. Such absent registration officers shall be appointed from the enrolled voters of their respective cities and towns and shall, as nearly as may be, equally represent the two leading political parties.

Absent registration officers appointed under this section shall, in the performance of their duties, have all the powers, and be subject to all the obligations and penalties, of registrars of voters, but their doings shall be under the direction, and subject to the revision and acceptance, of the registrars of voters.

Powers and duties.

SECTION 2. Said chapter fifty-one is hereby further amended by striking out section forty-two A, inserted by section five of said chapter seven hundred and fifteen, and inserting in place thereof the following section:— *Section 42A.* Any person claiming to have the qualifications for voting in any city or town who, by reason of physical disability, is unable to apply in person for registration may make application, in writing, to the registrars of voters of such city or town for registration in the manner hereinafter provided. Applications for registration under this section shall be made on forms provided by said registrars and worded substantially as follows:—

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 51, § 42A, etc., amended.

Applications for absent registration because of physical disability.

To the Registrars of Voters or Election Commissioners of the City or Town of.....

I,....., hereby make application for registration as a voter..... and believe
(Street and Number)

that I have the qualifications for voting at elections held therein, but I am unable by reason of physical disability to appear in person and register as a voter.

I will be available for examination as to my qualifications for voting at.....
(Street and Number)

.....
(Date)

Signed under penalties of perjury.

.....
(Name of Applicant)

CERTIFICATE OF PHYSICIAN, HOSPITAL SUPERINTENDENT, REGISTERED NURSE OR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PRACTITIONER.

I,....., certify that, in my opinion, the applicant,....., personally known to me, will by reason of physical disability be unable to appear in person to register prior to.....

Name
Residence
Designation

The form of application herein set forth when completed shall, not later than the third day prior to the last day for registration of voters, be returned by mail to the registrars of voters of the city or town to which such request is made. Applications received after said third day shall not be acted upon.

The registrars shall seasonably after receipt of an application for registration under this section delegate two registrars, assistant registrars or absent registration officers, equally representing the two leading political parties, to visit the person making the same, and the said officers, if satisfied that the applicant is unable by reason of physical disability to apply in person for registration, shall proceed to examine him as to his qualifications for voting in the

manner provided by this chapter. No such person shall be so examined after the close of registration nor in any city or town other than that in which he claims the right to vote; provided, that, if the applicant is in the military or naval service of the United States, he may be so examined not less than three days before an election and, if he is found to be qualified, a certificate of his registration shall be attached to the voting list prepared, under section fifty-five, for use thereat.

Approved April 9, 1946.

Chap. 197 AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATING TO THE SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES APPLICABLE TO THE BAHÁ'IS, SO CALLED.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 207, § 30, etc., amended.

SECTION 1. Section thirty of chapter two hundred and seven of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section one of chapter two hundred and fourteen of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-five, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "rabbi" in the fourteenth line the words:—, chairman of an incorporated local spiritual assembly of the Baha'is, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 30.* Upon application by both of the parties to an intended marriage, when both parties are residents of the commonwealth or both parties are non-residents, or upon application of the party residing within the commonwealth when one of the parties is a resident and the other a non-resident, a judge of probate or a justice of a district court, or a special judge of probate and insolvency or special justice of a district court, may, after hearing such evidence as is presented, grant a certificate stating that in his opinion it is expedient that the intended marriage be solemnized without delay. Upon presentation of such a certificate, or, in extraordinary or emergency cases when the death of either party is imminent, upon the authoritative request of a minister, clergyman, priest, rabbi, chairman of an incorporated local spiritual assembly of the Baha'is or attending physician, the clerk or registrar of the town where the notice of intention has been filed shall at once issue the certificate prescribed in section twenty-eight.

Waiver of five-day marriage law.

Chairman of incorporated Baha'is may request waiver.

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 207, § 38, etc., amended.

SECTION 2. Section thirty-eight of said chapter two hundred and seven, as most recently amended by chapter one hundred and sixty-two of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-two, is hereby further amended by inserting after the word "societies" in the twenty-fourth line the words:—, and it may be solemnized among the Baha'is by the chairman of an incorporated local spiritual assembly of the Baha'is according to the usage of their society, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 38.* A marriage may be solemnized in any place within the commonwealth by a minister of the gospel who resides in the commonwealth or who if a non-resident is the pastor of a church or denomination duly established in the commonwealth and who is recognized by

Solemnization of marriage.