
By Mrs. Cutler, a petition of Charles W. Hedges for legislation relative to the establishment of an administrative committee of sheriffs. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF SHERIFFS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 37 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 at the end the following section: —
3 *Section 24.* There is hereby established an administrative
4 committee of sheriffs consisting of three sheriffs, one to be
5 elected by and from the sheriffs of Berkshire, Franklin, Hamp-
6 den, and Hampshire counties; one to be elected by and from
7 the sheriffs of Essex, Middlesex and Worcester counties; and
8 one to be elected by and from the sheriffs of Barnstable, Bristol,
9 Norfolk, and Plymouth counties; provided, that in the election
10 of such member from the last named counties, the sheriff of
11 each of the counties of Nantucket and Dukes County shall be
12 entitled to one vote. The sheriff first elected from the sheriffs
13 of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties shall
14 serve for a term of one year, the sheriff first elected from the
15 sheriffs of Essex, Middlesex, and Worcester counties shall serve
16 for a term of two years, and the sheriff first elected from the
17 sheriffs of Barnstable, Bristol, Norfolk, and Plymouth counties
18 shall serve for a term of three years. The members first elected
19 as aforesaid shall be elected not later than the first day of No-
20 vember, nineteen hundred and sixty-five, and their several
21 terms shall run from said date. On or before October first of
22 the year in which the term of a member of the committee will
23 expire, his successor shall be elected in the same manner, at a
24 time and place to be designated by the director of accounts,

25 to serve for a term of three years from the first day of Novem-
26 ber following. The retirement of any member of such adminis-
27 trative committee as a sheriff shall thereupon create a vacancy
28 in the administrative committee. All vacancies in the adminis-
29 trative committee shall be filled in the same manner as the
30 original election for the unexpired term, and all sheriffs elected
31 to said administrative committee shall serve until the qualifi-
32 cation of their respective successors. In the case of the absence
33 or disability of a member of the administrative committee, the
34 other members may designate an acting member from among
35 the sheriffs of the counties represented by such member to
36 serve during his absence or disability.

37 Such administrative committee shall study on a continuous
38 basis the procedures and administrative practices of the office
39 of the sheriff of each county for the purpose of recommending
40 uniform practices and procedures to the sheriffs of each county,
41 The members of such administrative committee shall be au-
42 thorized to travel anywhere in the commonwealth in perform-
43 ance of their responsibility under this section. Said administra-
44 tive committee shall be authorized to incur expenses for clerical
45 and other services connected with the performance of their
46 responsibilities. Such expenses of the administrative committee
47 and its members shall be met by assessment upon each county
48 as approved by the administrative committee and by the
49 sheriff of each respective county.

50 To promote uniformity in the practices and procedures by
51 the sheriffs of each county, the administrative committee may
52 call a conference of any of all of the several sheriffs, deputy
53 sheriffs, jailers and masters and keepers of the houses of cor-
54 rection, and the traveling expenses of such officers in attend-
55 ing such conferences shall be paid as the other expenses of
56 their respective offices are paid.

57 The administrative committee may from time to time report
58 to the governor and to the general court its recommendations,
59 with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such recommenda-
60 tions into effect, relative to any matter within its responsi-
61 bilities.