

within the call fire forces of any city or town which are within the official service. In making appointments or promotions to all grades of service other than the lowest, the examination and appointment shall be limited to persons of the next lower grade; but if the number of applicants for examination in such lower grade is not sufficient to hold an examination, the next lower grades shall in succession be thrown open to the examination until at least the necessary number have applied; provided, that such applicants shall not be eligible to take any such examination for the first grade above the lowest grade in police or fire departments in cities and towns with a population in excess of fifty thousand and in the detective force of the state department of public safety and in the police force of the metropolitan district commission unless they have been employed in the lower grade for at least three years, and for all other grades unless they have been employed in the lower grade or grades admitted to the examination for at least one year. In cities and towns with a population of fifty thousand or under, such applicants shall not be eligible to take any such examination unless they have been employed in the lower grade or grades admitted to the examination for at least one year. If an examination has been thrown open to all the lower grades in succession and at least four do not apply therefor the director may hold the examination limited to such lesser number.

SECTION 2. This act shall apply to all examinations held on or after September first, nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

Application  
of act.

*Approved May 6, 1947.*

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE RETIREMENT OF THE CITY MESSENGER OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE.

*Chap. 355*

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

Any provision of general or special law to the contrary notwithstanding, the city messenger of the city of Holyoke in office upon the effective date of this act may, upon his written request, be retired under the provisions of sections seventy-seven to seventy-nine, inclusive, of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws, commonly known as the laborers' pension law.

*Approved May 6, 1947.*

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AN ACT MAKING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE RETIREMENT LAWS APPLICABLE TO THE PENSION RIGHTS OF HAROLD F. SHINE, A RETIRED FIREMAN OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD.

*Chap. 356*

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

For the purpose of promoting the public good, and notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law, the provisions of sections eighty-one A and eighty-one B of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws are hereby made applicable to the pension rights of Harold F. Shine, a retired fireman of the city of Springfield.

*Approved May 6, 1947.*