

by chapter 310 of the acts of the current year, and inserting in place thereof the following:—*Section 17.* The armory commission, the art commission, the commission on administration and finance, the commissioner of veterans' services, the commissioners on uniform state laws, the public bequest commission, the state ballot law commission, the board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, the board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, the milk regulation board, the alcoholic beverages control commission, the state planning board, the state housing board, the trustees of the state library, the state racing commission, the Greylock reservation commission, the Port of Boston Authority, the Massachusetts public building commission, the Massachusetts fair employment practice commission, the outdoor advertising authority, the commission on alcoholism, the youth service board and the Massachusetts aeronautics commission shall serve under the governor and council, and shall be subject to such supervision as the governor and council deem necessary and proper.

Certain officers to serve under governor and council.

SECTION 2. Said chapter 6 is hereby further amended by adding at the end thereof under the heading, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE SOLDIERS' HOME IN HOLYOKE, the two following sections:—*Section 70.* There shall be a board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, consisting of seven persons, at least a majority of whom shall be residents of the western area of the commonwealth. Upon the expiration of the term of office of a member, his successor shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, to serve for seven years. The governor shall designate one of the members as chairman. The members shall serve without compensation, but shall receive their necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 6, new §§ 70 and 71, added.

Board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke.

*Section 71.* Said board of trustees shall have the management and control of said home and all property, real and personal, belonging to the commonwealth and occupied or used by said home. In the management and control of said home as aforesaid, said board of trustees shall have the same powers and perform the same duties as are vested and imposed in the trustees of state hospitals under the provisions of chapter one hundred and twenty-three, so far as applicable.

Powers and duties of trustees

SECTION 3. The powers and duties conferred and imposed upon the board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts by chapter four hundred and seventy-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and forty-six, are hereby transferred to, and shall be exercised and performed by the board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, hereinbefore established.

Powers of trustees of Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts transferred to new board.

SECTION 4. Upon the effective date of this act, the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint seven persons, qualified as hereinbefore provided, to serve as the said board of trustees of the Soldiers' Home

Date of appointment.

in Holyoke, for terms of one, two, three, four, five, six and seven years, respectively, as the governor may designate.

*Approved June 4, 1948.*

*Chap. 477* AN ACT TO FACILITATE ABSENT VOTING BY RESIDENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS AT ANY REGULAR BIENNIAL STATE ELECTION OR AT CERTAIN REGULAR ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL CITY OR TOWN ELECTIONS.

Emergency  
preamble.

*Whereas,* The purpose of this act is to facilitate absent voting by residents of the commonwealth at biennial state elections or annual or biennial city and town elections where absent voting is permitted by affording such persons sufficient opportunity to vote, therefore this act is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

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

G. L. (Ter.  
Ed.), 54, § 87,  
etc., amended.

SECTION 1. Subsection (b) of section 87 of chapter 54 of the General Laws, as most recently amended by section 2 of chapter 466 of the acts of 1945, is hereby further amended by adding at the end the following paragraph: —

Desire for  
absent voting  
ballot to be  
treated as  
application.

Any form of written communication evidencing a desire that an absent voting ballot be sent to him for use for voting at any election, where absent voting is permitted, shall be given the same effect as an application for an absent voting ballot made in the form prescribed by law.

G. L. (Ter.  
Ed.), 54,  
§ 103A, etc.,  
amended.

SECTION 2. Section 103A of said chapter 54, as most recently amended by chapter 118 of the acts of 1946, is hereby further amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting the following paragraph: — Sections eighty-six to one hundred and three, inclusive, of this chapter and sections twenty-one and twenty-seven of chapter fifty-six shall, so far as applicable, apply to regular city elections in any city which accepts this section by vote of its city council, subject to the provisions of its charter, at a meeting held not less than ninety days before the regular city election, and to regular town elections in any town which accepts this section at any annual meeting or any special town meeting held not less than ninety days before an annual meeting. All the rights, powers, duties and obligations conferred and imposed upon the state secretary by said sections shall, with respect to said city and town elections, be exercised and performed by the clerk of such city or town, and, in construing said sections for the purposes of this section, any reference to state elections shall be considered as referring to said city or town elections in such city or town.

Absent voting  
at city and  
town elections.

*Approved June 4, 1948.*