

HOUSE No. 635

By Mr. Kerr of Belmont, petition of Henry F. Long (Commissioner of Corporations and Taxation) for prohibiting assessors from holding other city or town offices. Taxation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-One.

AN ACT PROHIBITING ASSESSORS FROM HOLDING OTHER CITY OR TOWN OFFICES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 7 of chapter 4 of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out the third
3 clause, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition,
4 and inserting in place thereof the following clause:—
5 Third, "Assessor" shall include any person chosen
6 or appointed in accordance with law to perform the
7 duties of an assessor.

1 SECTION 2. Section 20 of chapter 41 of the General
2 Laws, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, is
3 hereby amended by striking out the second sentence
4 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:—
5 The selectmen shall be the board of public welfare in
6 towns which have not authorized the election of such
7 officers.

1 SECTION 3. Section 21 of chapter 41 of the General
2 Laws, as amended by section 2 of chapter 155 of the
3 acts of 1934, is hereby further amended by striking out
4 the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the
5 following sentence:— Ten per cent of the registered
6 voters in any town may file a petition with the select-
7 men thirty days or more before the annual town
8 meeting asking that the selectmen act as a water and
9 sewer board, water commissioners, water and mu-
10 nicipal light commissioners, municipal light board,
11 sewer commissioners, park commissioners, board of
12 health or board of public welfare, or perform the
13 duties of such boards or officers or any of them, or
14 that cemetery commissioners, assessors, a superintend-
15 ent of streets, a chief of the police and fire departments
16 or a tree warden be thereafter appointed by the
17 selectmen.

1 SECTION 4. Section 24 of chapter 41 of the General
2 Laws, as amended by section 1 of chapter 136 of the
3 acts of 1945, is hereby further amended by striking
4 out the last paragraph and inserting in place thereof
5 the following paragraph:—
6 An assessor shall not hold any other city or town
7 office.

1 SECTION 5. Said chapter 41 is hereby amended
2 by striking out section 26A, as inserted by chapter
3 149 of the acts of 1935, and inserting in place thereof
4 the following:—

5 *Section 26A.* The assessors may employ counsel
6 at the expense of the city or town to defend them in
7 all proceedings under chapter fifty-eight A; provided,
8 that if such city or town maintains a city solicitor or

9 town counsel the assessors shall not employ other
10 counsel for such defence but shall use such solicitor
11 or counsel therefor, whose expenses incurred in such
12 defence shall be paid from his general appropriation.

13 The foregoing restriction on the right of the asses-
14 sors to employ counsel for such purpose shall not
15 apply in case the town has made an appropriation
16 covering the employment of counsel therefor.

1 SECTION 6. Said chapter 41 is hereby further
2 amended by striking out section 27, as amended by
3 section 1 of chapter 118 of the acts of 1936, and
4 inserting in place thereof the following:—

5 *Section 27.* If assessors shall fail to perform their
6 duties, the commissioner of corporations and taxation
7 may appoint three or more persons to be assessors for
8 such town, who shall be sworn, shall hold office until
9 the offices of assessors are filled by the town, and
10 shall receive from the town compensation as assessors.

1 SECTION 7. If at the time this act becomes effec-
2 tive, an assessor holds another city or town office,
3 he may, notwithstanding the foregoing provisions
4 of this act, continue to hold both the office of assessor
5 and such other city or town office until the expiration
6 of the term of such other office, but not thereafter.

The first part of the book is devoted to a general survey of the history of the United States from the discovery of the continent to the present time. The author discusses the various stages of the nation's development, from the early colonial period to the formation of the Union, and the subsequent growth and expansion of the country. He also touches upon the political, social, and economic changes that have shaped the nation over the centuries.

The second part of the book is a detailed account of the American Revolution, from the outbreak of hostilities in 1775 to the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The author provides a comprehensive overview of the military, political, and social aspects of the war, as well as the role of the individual states and the Continental Congress.

The third part of the book is a study of the early years of the United States, from the signing of the Constitution in 1787 to the end of the War of 1812. The author examines the challenges faced by the young nation, such as the struggle for a strong central government, the issue of slavery, and the westward expansion of the country.

The fourth part of the book is a history of the United States from 1812 to the present time. The author discusses the various conflicts and events that have shaped the nation, including the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, and the two World Wars. He also touches upon the social and economic changes that have occurred over the years, such as the rise of industry and the growth of the middle class.

The book is written in a clear and concise style, and is suitable for both students and general readers. It provides a comprehensive overview of the history of the United States, and is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the subject.