
Substituted by the House, on motion of Mr. Farrell of Worcester, for a bill with the same title (House, No. 4608). June 10.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO PROVIDE WARD COUNCILLORS IN CERTAIN PLAN E CITIES.

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. Chapter 43 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 96 the following sec-
3 tion:—

4 *Section 96A.* The city council in any city having seven
5 wards or less shall be composed of seven members, and the
6 city council in any city having more than seven wards but
7 less than ten wards shall have nine members, all of whom
8 shall, at each regular municipal election be elected at large
9 for terms of two years. The city council in any city having
10 ten or more wards shall be composed of fifteen members,
11 one ward councillor from each ward and the remaining
12 members councillors at large. Each ward councillor shall be
13 a registered voter in the ward from which he seeks election
14 and shall be elected by and from the qualified voters of that
15 ward. The councillors at large shall be elected by and from
16 the qualified voters of the city. The ward councillors and
17 the councillors at large shall be elected at each regular mu-
18 nicipal election for terms of two years each, by propor-
19 tional representation only in such cities in which said method
20 of election is in effect, and shall serve until their successors
21 are qualified. Section eight of chapter thirty-nine shall apply
22 to members of the city council. All trustees or other officers
23 mentioned in section ninety-five shall at each regular municipi-
24 pal election be elected at large for terms of two years by pro-
25 portional representation as hereinafter provided.

26 Upon petition of fifteen per cent of the registered voters
27 of any city, which has adopted the Plan E form of city
28 charter, filed with the city clerk or election commissioners
29 not later than sixty days before the regular city election,
30 this section shall be submitted for acceptance to the regis-
31 tered voters of said city election in the form of the follow-
32 ing question, which shall be placed on the official ballot
33 to be used in said city at such city election:—"Shall sec-
34 tion ninety-six A of chapter forty-three of the General Laws
35 providing for the nomination and election of a councillor
36 from each ward and some at large be accepted?"

37 The petition shall be submitted to the registrars of voters
38 for the certification of the names, thereon not later than five
39 o'clock postmeridian of the seventh day preceding the day
40 on which it must be filed with the city clerk.

41 If a majority of the votes cast in any such city in answer
42 to said question is in the affirmative, than said section
43 ninety-six A of said chapter forty-three shall be in effect and
44 section ninety-six of said chapter forty-three shall cease to
45 be in effect in any such city.

1 SECTION 2. If any question arises as to the validity or suffi-
2 ciency of the petition or of the signatures thereon, any reg-
3 istered voter of the city may appeal to the state ballot law
4 commissioner for a determination of said question, by filing
5 a notice of such appeal with the city council and with the
6 clerk of the election commission or the board of registrars
7 of voters within eight days after the date the petition was
8 filed with the city clerk by the petitioners, and the state
9 ballot law commission shall give such petitioner a hearing
10 on said question and shall within thirty days render a deci-
11 sion thereon. Said commission shall submit notice of its
12 decision forthwith to the city council.

1 SECTION 3. The provisions of section ninety-six of chapter
2 forty-three of the General Laws, inserted by section one of
3 this act, shall apply to municipal elections held in Plan E
4 cities in the year nineteen hundred and sixty-nine and
5 thereafter.