

HOUSE No. 5319

By Mr. Bolling of Boston, petition of Richard D. Wimberly and Royal L. Bolling, Jr., for legislation to dissolve the city of Boston and to incorporate the towns of Charlestown, Boston, Roxbury, Brighton, West Roxbury, Hyde Park and Dorchester. Local Affairs. [Local Approval Received.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Seven.

AN ACT TO DISSOLVE THE CITY OF BOSTON AND TO INCORPORATE THE SEVERAL TOWNS OF CHARLESTOWN, BOSTON, ROXBURY, BRIGHTON, WEST ROXBURY, HYDE PARK AND DORCHESTER.

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. That the City of Boston is hereby broken up into
2 the Towns of Boston, Charlestown, Dorchester, Brighton,
3 Roxbury, West Roxbury, and Hyde Park, hereinafter called "the
4 Towns". Chapter two hundred and eighty-six of the laws of
5 eighteen hundred and seventy-three, chapter three hundred and
6 forty-nine of eighteen hundred and sixty-nine, chapter one
7 hundred and eleven of eighteen hundred and three, chapter four
8 hundred and sixty-eight of eighteen hundred and fifty-five,
9 chapter three hundred and fifty-nine of eighteen hundred and
10 sixty-seven, chapter three hundred and three of eighteen hundred
11 and seventy-three, chapter three hundred and fourteen of
12 eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and chapter four hundred
13 and sixty-nine of nineteen hundred and eleven are excepted for
14 sections dealing with judicial districts, hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 2. All that territory that is now comprised within
2 the limits of the City of Boston shall be organized into the several
3 municipalities that existed before the annexations listed above.

4 And such territories shall be organized as towns and are hereby
5 invested with all the powers, privileges, rights, and immunities
6 and are subject to all the duties and requirements to which other
7 towns are entitled and subjected by the Constitution and laws of
8 the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 3. All pending actions and causes in Courts shall be
2 uneffected by this act.

1 SECTION 4. The Towns shall be established at the end of
2 June 30, 1976. The transition shall include establishment of
3 boundaries, dividing of property, hiring of civil service employees
4 already having permanent status, and developing and establishing
5 democratic processes. This must include the present elected
6 officials of the City of Boston, the Secretary of the Com-
7 monwealth, the Civil Service Administration and the Executive
8 Secretary of Public Safety.

1 SECTION 5. All real property, except the Boston City Hall
2 and the Boston City Hospital, that is owned by the city of Boston
3 or any subdivision of it shall devolve upon whichever town of the
4 Towns that it is situated in.

1 SECTION 6. All other property owned by the City of Boston
2 or any subdivision of it, except property in Boston City Hall or
3 Boston City Hospital, shall be divided up and given to the Towns
4 according to the direction of the Property Distribution Commis-
5 sion. The Property Distribution Commission shall be composed
6 of nine members before July 1, 1976, and sixteen after July 1,
7 1976. Two shall be appointed by the Mayor, one by the City
8 Council, one by the School Committee, five by the Governor, and
9 later one each from the selectmen of the several Towns.

1 SECTION 7. On passage of this act, five perambulators shall
2 be appointed by the Governor for each of the Towns. These
3 perambulators shall perambulate and show the border between
4 the Towns.

1 SECTION 8. After their election the board of selectmen of
2 each of the Towns shall appoint their own perambulators, and
3 shall cause suitable monuments to be erected and continued
4 showing the line between their own town and abutting
5 municipalities.

1 SECTION 9. Each of the Towns shall elect seven selectmen,
2 one clerk, one treasurer, five members of the school committee,
3 and two hundred and forty representative town meeting
4 members. For each of the Towns, the registered voters of a town
5 or precinct shall vote for the appropriate officials from the list of
6 nominated eligible candidates. For nomination the candidates for
7 town-wide office shall file one hundred certified signatures. For
8 nomination for town meeting member the candidate must file ten
9 certified signatures. Those eligible for any position in any of the
10 Towns shall be either a) a registered voter in the City of Boston,
11 or b) someone who has worked within the City of Boston for the
12 immediate past year, or c) someone who has been a registered
13 voter in Boston within the past four years.

1 SECTION 10. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
2 appoint five persons in each Town to serve as Registrars of
3 Voters. These shall serve until replaced by the duly elected
4 officials.

1 SECTION 11. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
2 appoint one committee of fourteen people to apportion the town
3 meeting member positions of each of the Towns as equally as
4 possible to existing Ward precinct lines or Federal Census Tracts.

1 SECTION 12. After July 1, 1976 each of the Towns shall
2 organize their towns according to law.

1 SECTION 13. The Secretary of Public Safety shall have
2 overriding authority on all public safety issues in the Towns for
3 two years after the establishment of the Towns.

1 SECTION 14. The permanently positioned firemen and
2 policemen of the City of Boston shall apply to the appropriate
3 agency of any of the Towns that they want. The appropriate
4 public service agency must first fill all positions with applying
5 permanently positioned persons. All remaining permanently
6 positioned public safety persons shall be placed by the Secretary
7 of Public Safety in any appropriate agency in the Com-
8 monwealth.

1 SECTION 15. All other permanently positioned civil service
2 employees shall be integrated into positions in other jurisdictions
3 in the Commonwealth by the Civil Service Administrator.

1 SECTION 16. All debts of the City of Boston or its
2 subdivisions shall be assumed by Suffolk County.