

HOUSE....No. 45.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 2, 1866.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the Petition of Edmund H. Bennett and others for an Act to amend the city charter of Taunton, report the accompanying Bill.

By order of the Committee,

H. H. COOLIDGE,

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

In addition to an Act to establish the City of Taunton.

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

1 SECT. 1. The city council of the city of Taunton
2 is hereby authorized to establish a fire department for
3 said city. Said council may, by ordinance, determine
4 of what officers and members said department shall
5 consist, prescribe the time and mode of their appoint-
6 ment and removal, define their powers, duties and
7 period of service, fix their compensation, and make
8 such other regulations regarding their conduct and
9 government as they deem expedient.

1 SECT. 2. The engineers, or other officers of the
2 department, appointed as aforesaid, shall have the
3 same authority in regard to the prevention and
4 extinguishment of fires, and the performance of the
5 other duties and offices now incumbent upon fire

6 wards, as are conferred upon fire wards by the General
7 Statutes.

1 SECT. 3. The city council of said city may, by
2 ordinance, make regulations concerning the manage-
3 ment of fires, the conduct of all persons attending or
4 present thereat, the removal and protection of prop-
5 erty, the examination of any building or place where
6 combustible materials or substances are supposed to
7 be kept or deposited, the removal of such materials
8 and substances, and the adoption of other suitable
9 safeguards against fires, and the loss or destruction of
10 property thereat.

1 SECT. 4. Said city may procure and hold such
2 land, buildings, furniture, engines and other appara-
3 tus, as may be necessary for the purposes of the fire
4 department; and the city council may, by ordinance,
5 make regulations regarding the use, control and
6 preservation thereof.

1 SECT. 5. The powers and duties mentioned in the
2 preceding sections, or any of them, may be exercised
3 and carried into effect by the said city council, in any
4 manner which they may prescribe, and through the
5 agency of any persons, or any board or boards, to
6 whom they may delegate the same. Suitable penal-
7 ties may be affixed to the violation of the regulations
8 made under the authority of this act, not exceeding
9 twenty dollars for any one breach thereof.

1 SECT. 6. Said city is hereby authorized to expend
2 a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars annually,
3 under the direction of the city council, for the relief

4 of such firemen as are disabled in the service of said
5 city, and for the relief of the families of such firemen
6 as are killed in the performance of their duties.

1 SECT. 7. The assessors of said city shall, after the
2 present year, consist of three persons, elected by the
3 city council by concurrent vote. As soon as may be
4 after the first Monday of January in the year eighteen
5 hundred and sixty-seven, one assessor shall be so
6 elected for the term of one year, one for the term of
7 two years, and one for the term of three years from
8 said first Monday, and until their successors respec-
9 tively are chosen. In each succeeding year, one
10 assessor shall be so elected for the term of three years.
11 The city council may in like manner fill any vacancy
12 occurring in said board; may elect such assistants,
13 and provide such clerical aid as they deem necessary,
14 and define the duties and fix the compensation of all
15 of said officers. The mayor of said city shall not,
16 after the present year, be, *ex officio*, a member of the
17 board of assessors.

1 SECT. 8. No person shall be appointed city mar-
2 shal, assistant-marshal, constable, or to any other
3 office in the police department of said city, unless
4 nominated to said office by the mayor.

1 SECT. 9. So much of the act to which this act is
2 in addition as is inconsistent herewith, is hereby
3 repealed.

1 SECT. 10. This act shall take effect whenever the
2 same is adopted by the city council of said city by
3 concurrent vote; and unless so adopted within six
4 months after its passage, the same shall be void.