

SECT. 6. The secretary of the Commonwealth shall also make a list of all the persons returned as representatives, and shall transmit such list, together with the said certificates, to the house of representatives, as soon as the members thereof shall have been called to order as provided in the next section.

The secretary to forward another list, with certificates, to the house of representatives.

SECT. 7. On the said first Wednesday of January, in each year, and some time between the hours of ten in the forenoon and twelve at noon of the same day, the several persons returned as aforesaid, and admitted as members into the representatives' chamber, shall be called to order by the oldest member present; or, if there be two or more present of equal and the oldest standing as members, then by the oldest of such two or more; and such member shall be the presiding officer of the house until a speaker shall be chosen, or until the house shall otherwise direct.

House, how to be temporarily organized.

SECT. 8. Any person having a certificate, or other documentary evidence of his election as a representative, whose name shall not be borne on the said list, may at any time after the house shall have been called to order, present his certificate or other evidence to the presiding officer, or to the speaker, if one shall be then chosen, who shall communicate the same to the house for their order thereon; but such person shall not take a seat, and act as a member, until permitted so to do by the house.

Proceedings of persons claiming seats.

SECT. 9. The clerk of the house of representatives for the present, or for any succeeding year, shall act as clerk of the next succeeding house until a clerk thereof shall be chosen and sworn.

Clerk of last house to officiate as clerk.

SECT. 10. The clerk, or acting clerk, may appoint a deputy in case of sickness, or of other necessary detention, or of leave of absence from the house; such appointment to be in writing, and for three days only; and he may also appoint an assistant, if necessary, subject to the approval or disapproval of the house.

And may appoint a deputy and assistant, provided, &c.

SECT. 11. The clerk, deputy clerk, and assistant, shall be qualified by taking the oath of office prescribed by the sixth chapter of the second part of the constitution.

Clerk, &c. how to be qualified.

SECT. 12. The first eight sections of this act shall be printed on some part of the blank form of the certificate mentioned in the first section. [*Approved by the Governor, March 16, 1844.*]

First eight sections of this act to be printed on blank certificate.

An Act in addition to an Act to incorporate the Hope Insurance Company.

Chap 144.

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

SECT. 1. The Hope Insurance Company may divide among their stockholders, and the persons insured by them in proportion to the stock owned, and the premiums paid

Six per cent. of profits to be divided among stockholders,

and excess over six per cent. among stockholders and persons insured, provided, &c.

on risks terminated all of their clear profit over and above the amount of six per cent. per annum, which six per cent. shall be divided among the stockholders alone: *provided*, that no such division among the stockholders and the persons insured, jointly shall be made until all arrearages, which may hereafter occur in the six per centum payable to the stockholders, shall have been paid to the stockholders.

Stockholders may withdraw their proportion of assets, to be ascertained by arbitrators before the acceptance of this act.

SECT. 2. Any stockholder may withdraw his proportion of the assets of the company, the value of which shall forthwith be ascertained by arbitration before the acceptance of this act; and any deficiency thus created in the capital stock shall be made up by new subscribers before this act shall go into operation. The arbitrators herein provided for, shall be appointed, one by the president of the company and one by the claiming stockholder; and in case the two persons so appointed are unable to agree as to the value of the assets, they shall appoint a third arbitrator to act with them. [*Approved by the Governor, March 16, 1844.*]

### Chap 145.

An Act relating to the Poll Tax.

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

Poll tax to be assessed on all male inhabitants over 70 years old, except, &c.

SECT. 1. A poll tax shall be assessed upon every male inhabitant of the Commonwealth above the age of seventy years, excepting paupers and persons under guardianship, whether a citizen of the United States, or an alien, in the manner heretofore provided by law.

Repeal of inconsistent provisions.

SECT. 2. All acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed. [*Approved by the Governor, March 16, 1844.*]

### Chap 146.

An Act in addition to an Act providing for a Return by the Overseers of the Poor.

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

Overscers of the poor, &c., to make return of paupers by reason of insanity or idiocy.

SECT. 1. The overseers of the poor of the several towns in this Commonwealth, and the directors of the House of Industry in the city of Boston, shall, in their returns to the secretary of the Commonwealth, make true and correct answer to the following inquiry: What number of persons relieved or supported as paupers during the year in your town, have become paupers by reason of insanity or idiocy? And the blank form of return furnished the said overseers and directors by the secretary of the Commonwealth, shall contain in substance the foregoing interrogatory. [*Approved by the Governor, March 16, 1844.*]