

the same powers, and perform the same duties, in reference to the assessment and collection of the moneys voted by the inhabitants of such fire district, as aforesaid, as they have and exercise in reference to the assessment and collection of town taxes, and may make abatements in the same manner: *provided, nevertheless*, that the sums so voted shall be assessed upon the property within such district, both real and personal.

Property subject to taxation.

Compensation of fire district officers.

SECT. 14. The chief clerk and engineer of any fire district, duly constituted, shall be entitled to such reasonable compensation for their services as may be voted by the inhabitants of the district, at a legal meeting thereof; but no compensation shall be paid to any other officer or member of any district, for his services in that capacity.

Penalties of infraction of rules of fire districts, to be approved by the court of common pleas.

How to be used.

SECT. 15. The by-laws, rules and regulations, passed by said fire districts, which have penalties attached to them, shall, before they shall be in force, be approved by the court of common pleas, held within and for the county to which such fire districts belong, and all penalties, which shall be recovered by virtue of this act, shall be appropriated to pay the expenses of the fire department. [*Approved by the Governor, March 16, 1844.*]

Chap 153.

An Act concerning the Journals and Files of the Senate and House of Representatives.

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

Journals, &c. of the two houses to be in the custody of the clerks thereof, and certified copies to be evidence.

The journals, files, papers and documents of every description, appertaining to the senate and to the house of representatives and their proceedings, shall be in the custody of the clerks thereof, respectively; and copies thereof, certified by the said clerks, shall, in all cases, be evidence equally and in like manner with the originals. [*Approved by the Governor, March 16, 1844.*]

Chap 154.

An Act concerning Poor Debtors.

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

Notice of purpose to take the poor debtor's oath, when and by whom to be given, to a justice of the peace.

SECT. 1. Whenever any person shall be arrested on mesne process, in any civil suit for any debt; or whenever any person shall have been so arrested, and have given bail, or been committed to jail; or shall have been committed to jail on surrender, in court or otherwise, by his bail in the suit, he may, at any time after his arrest or commitment, give notice, in writing, to any justice of the peace in the county where the arrest was made, that he is desirous to take the oath prescribed in the ninety-eighth chapter of the Revised Statutes, for "the relief of poor debtors com-