

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE PURITY OF INLAND WATERS, AND TO REQUIRE CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEMS OF WATER SUPPLY, DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

*Chap. 375*

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows :*

SECTION 1. The state board of health shall have the general oversight and care of all inland waters, and shall be furnished with maps, plans and documents suitable for this purpose, and records of all its doings in relation thereto shall be kept. It may employ such engineers and clerks and other assistants as it may deem necessary: *provided*, that no contracts or other acts which involve the payment of money from the treasury of the Commonwealth shall be made or done without an appropriation expressly made therefor by the general court. It shall annually on or before the tenth day of January report to the general court its doings in the preceding year, and at the same time submit estimates of the sums required to meet the expenses of said board in relation to the care and oversight of inland waters for the ensuing year, and it shall also recommend legislation and suitable plans for such systems of main sewers as it may deem necessary for the preservation of the public health, and for the purification and prevention of pollution of the ponds, streams and inland waters of the Commonwealth.

State board of health to have oversight and care of all inland waters.

SECTION 2. Said board shall from time to time, as it may deem expedient, cause examinations of the said waters to be made for the purpose of ascertaining whether the same are adapted for use as sources of domestic water supplies or are in a condition likely to impair the interests of the public or persons lawfully using the same, or imperil the public health. It shall recommend measures for prevention of the pollution of such waters, and for removal of substances and causes of every kind which may be liable to cause pollution thereof, in order to protect and develop the rights and property of the Commonwealth therein and to protect the public health. It shall have authority to conduct experiments to determine the best practicable methods of purification of drainage and sewage or disposal of the same. For the purposes aforesaid it may employ such expert assistance as may be necessary.

To cause examinations as to purity of water to be made.

To advise, etc., authorities of cities and towns intending to introduce, etc., systems of water supply, drainage or sewerage.

SECTION 3. It shall from time to time consult with and advise the authorities of cities and towns, or with corporations, firms or individuals either already having or intending to introduce systems of water supply, drainage or sewerage, as to the most appropriate source of supply, the best practicable method of assuring the purity thereof or of disposing of their drainage or sewage, having regard to the present and prospective needs and interests of other cities, towns, corporations, firms or individuals which may be affected thereby. It shall also from time to time consult with and advise persons or corporations engaged or intending to engage in any manufacturing or other business, drainage or sewerage from which may tend to cause the pollution of any inland water, as to the best practicable method of preventing such pollution by the interception, disposal or purification of such drainage or sewage: *provided*, that no person shall be compelled to bear the expense of such consultation or advice, or of experiments made for the purposes of this act. All such authorities, corporations, firms and individuals are hereby required to give notice to said board of their intentions in the premises, and to submit for its advice outlines of their proposed plans or schemes in relation to water supply and disposal of drainage and sewage, and all petitions to the legislature for authority to introduce a system of water supply, drainage or sewerage shall be accompanied by a copy of the recommendation and advice of the said board thereon. Said board shall bring to the notice of the attorney-general all instances which may come to its knowledge of omission to comply with existing laws respecting the pollution of water supplies and inland waters, and shall annually report to the legislature any specific cases not covered by the provisions of existing laws, which in its opinion call for further legislation.

To notify attorney-general of omission to comply with laws respecting the pollution of water supplies, etc.

Words "drainage" and "sewage" defined.

SECTION 4. In this act the term "drainage" refers to rainfall, surface and subsoil water only, and "sewage" refers to domestic and manufacturing filth and refuse.

Repeal.

SECTION 5. Chapter two hundred and seventy-four of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-six is hereby repealed, but nothing in this act shall be construed to affect the expenditures authorized under chapter thirty of the resolves of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Approved May 18, 1888.*