
Chapter 228. AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE POSITION OF TOWN ACCOUNTANTS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Section 55 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1996 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the fourth sentence and inserting in place thereof the following two sentences:- The town accountant shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties, shall hold no other town office involving the receipt or disbursement of money, shall hold office for three years and until a successor is qualified; provided, however, that at the discretion of the appointing authority, a person may be appointed to the position of town accountant for a term of not more than five years and until a successor is qualified. The town clerk, if he holds no other office involving the receipt or disbursement of money, may be appointed to the position of town accountant.

Approved December 23, 1997.

Chapter 229. AN ACT ABOLISHING THE BOARD OF TRUST COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The board of commissioners of trust funds of the town of Swampscott, established under the provisions of section 45 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, is hereby abolished.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved December 23, 1997.

Chapter 230. AN ACT EXEMPTING THE POSITION OF CIVILIAN DISPATCHER IN THE TOWN OF BILLERICA FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE LAW.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The position of civilian dispatcher in the town of Billerica shall be exempt from the provisions of chapter 31 of the General Laws.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved December 23, 1997.

Chapter 231. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ASHFIELD WATER DISTRICT.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the failure of the Ashfield Water District to comply seasonably with the provisions of sections 42G to 42K, inclusive, of chapter 40 and sections

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1 and 2 of chapter 80 of the General Laws relating to the construction or extension of a water supply system in said Ashfield Water District, said district is hereby authorized and empowered to levy such betterment assessments arising from the construction of said water supply and distribution system, and the time for taking such votes, orders and acts to levy such betterments is hereby extended for a period of 12 months from the effective date of this act; provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed to impair or affect the rights of owners of such land as has been the subject of such betterment assessments.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved December 23, 1997.

Chapter 232. AN ACT AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE OFFICE BUILDINGS TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A PLAQUE IN HONOR OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE BULFINCH STATE HOUSE.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The superintendent of state office buildings is hereby authorized and directed, subject to approval of the art commission as to size and content, to install and maintain a plaque in a suitable space in Doric Hall in the Bulfinch State House in honor of the bicentennial of the Bulfinch State House, January 11, 1998.

Approved December 23, 1997.

Chapter 233. AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Chapter 90 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 22G the following section:-

Section 22H. No person shall transport an animal in the back of a motor vehicle in a space intended for a load on the vehicle on a public way unless such space is enclosed or has side and tail racks to a height of at least 46 inches extending vertically from the floor, the animal is cross tethered to the vehicle, the animal is protected by a secured container or cage or the animal is otherwise protected in a manner which will prevent the animal from being thrown or from falling or jumping from the vehicle. Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.

Approved December 24, 1997.