

**Chap. 688.** AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF TAUNTON TO PAY INCREASES IN PENSIONS TO CERTAIN RETIRED VETERANS.

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

SECTION 1. The city of Taunton is hereby authorized to pay each of the following persons the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars, which amount represents an increase in the pensions to which said persons were entitled in the years nineteen hundred and seventy and nineteen hundred and seventy-one as a result of the provisions of chapter six hundred and seventeen of the acts of nineteen hundred and seventy:—Albert A. Banks, Henry S. Williams, William E. Chamberlain, J. Stewart McNamara, Frank R. Rose, Thomas J. Galligan, William J. Ricketts, William F. Hanna, Sr., George A. White, George J. P. Moreau, Bernard A. Meinhardt, Andrew F. McManus, Harold H. Galligan, Edward F. Kennedy, Alice R. Knox, David F. Mullen, Lawrence B. Norton, and Rolfe W. Burns.

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

*Approved July 13, 1972.*

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**Chap. 689.** AN ACT VALIDATING THE ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF THE TOWN OF BILLERICA HELD IN THE YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-TWO.

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

SECTION 1. The acts and proceedings of the town of Billerica at the annual town meeting held on March eleventh, nineteen hundred and seventy-two, and at the adjourned sessions held on March fifteenth, eighteenth, twenty-first, twenty-third, twenty-fifth, and twenty-eight, and April fourth, eighth, eleventh, and thirteenth, nineteen hundred and seventy-two, and all acts done in pursuance thereof, are hereby in all respects ratified, validated and confirmed.

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

*Approved July 13, 1972.*

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**Chap. 690.** AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF STOCKBRIDGE TO ACQUIRE THE PROPERTY AND ASSETS OF THE STOCKBRIDGE WATER COMPANY.

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

SECTION 1. Upon the acceptance of this act the town of Stockbridge is hereby authorized, acting by and through its board of selectmen, to acquire from the owners of all of the outstanding and issued capital stock of the Stockbridge Water Company, hereinafter called the company, and the company shall transfer all of such stock and all of the properties and assets and its right to take water in the town of Stockbridge to the town of Stockbridge; provided, however, that the said town shall assume and pay all of the liabilities and obligations of the company as of the date of the transfer of such stock. A statement setting forth all of the liabilities and obligations of the company, prepared by a certified public accountant and signed under oath by a duly authorized officer thereof, shall be furnished to

said town, which shall also have the right to inspect the books and records of the company in order to verify the total amount owed by it. Said town shall acquire said capital stock as of the close of business December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and seventy-two.

SECTION 2. Upon the transfer of all of the capital stock of the company to said town, the board of selectmen of said town are authorized to vote the shares of the stock of the company at all stockholder meeting and also upon the dissolution of the company to transfer all of the assets, franchises, corporate property, rights and privileges to said town to be managed thereafter by a board of water commissioners of said town as authorized hereinafter.

SECTION 3. Upon the transfer of all of said capital stock of said town as authorized above, the board of selectmen of said town is hereby authorized to dissolve the company.

SECTION 4. Said town for the purpose of acquiring all of the capital stock of the said water company may borrow from time to time such sums as may be necessary, not exceeding, in the aggregate seventy-five thousand dollars and may issue bonds or notes of said town therefor, which shall bear on their face, Town of Stockbridge, Stockbridge Water Company Acquisition Loan, Act of 1972. Each authorized issue shall constitute a separate loan, and such loans shall be paid not more than thirty years from their date. Indebtedness incurred under this act shall be in excess of the statutory limits of indebtedness, and shall, except as provided herein, be subject to the provisions of chapter forty-four of the General Laws, exclusive of the limitations contained in sections seven or eight thereof.

SECTION 5. The land, water rights and other property acquired under this act, and all works, aqueducts, pipe lines, buildings or other structures erected or constructed thereunder shall, upon dissolution of the company, be managed, improved and controlled by the board of water commissioners of said town hereinafter provided for, in such manner as they shall deem for the best interest of said town. Said town may furnish and sell water to other municipalities, which are hereby authorized to purchase water so sold.

SECTION 6. Said town may, after acquisition of the capital stock of the said water company, at a meeting called for the purpose, establish a board of three water commissioners. If such a board of water commissioners is provided for, the commissioners shall, in the first instance, be elected by ballot, other than the official ballot, to hold office, one until the expiration of one year, one until the expiration of two years, one until the expiration of three years, from the next succeeding annual town meeting; and at the annual town meeting held on the day on which the shortest of such terms expires, and at each annual town meeting thereafter, one such commissioner shall be elected by official ballot for the term of three years. A majority of said commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. After the election of a board of water commissioners under authority of this act, any vacancy occurring in said board from any cause may be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by said town at any legal town meeting called for the purpose. Any such vacancy may be filled temporarily by a majority vote of the selectmen and the remaining members of the water commission and

the person appointed shall hold office until said town fills the vacancy in the manner specified herein or until the expiration of the remainder of such unexpired term, whichever event first occurs. The said board of water commissioner, if provided for as above, shall serve without compensation except for expenses incurred in connection with their official duties.

SECTION 7. The water commissioners, if provided for as above, shall have exclusive charge and control of the water department and water system of said town, subject to all lawful by-laws and to such instructions, rules and regulations as said town may from time to time impose by its vote, except as hereinafter provided. Said commissioners may establish fountains and hydrants, may relocate or discontinue the same, may regulate the use of water and shall annually estimate just and equitable prices and rates for the use thereof which shall be sufficient to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and payments on the principal as they accrue on any bonds or notes issued for the purposes of this act. Said commissioners shall prescribe the time and manner of payment of the same. Any indebtedness incurred pursuant to this act shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter forty-four of the General Laws but, in so far as possible, will be retired from income derived from the operations of the water department and water system. The income from the water works shall be appropriated to pay all operating expenses, interest charges and payments on the principal as they accrue on any bonds or notes issued under this act. If in any year there should be a net surplus remaining after providing for the aforesaid charges for that year, such surplus may be appropriated for such new construction as said commissioners, with the approval of the town, may determine upon; and in case as net surplus should remain after payment for such new construction the water rates shall be reduced proportionately. If any year there should be a deficit of revenue, said commissioners shall in the following year fix the rate so as to meet such deficit together with the estimated operating costs including interest and debt. Said commissioners shall annually, and as often as said town may require, render a report upon the condition of the works under their charge and on account of their doings, including an account of receipt and expenditures.

SECTION 8. Said commissioners may appoint a superintendent of water works whose duties shall be, under the general direction of said commissioners, to maintain and repair all pipes, aqueducts, dams, and other structures and to do all things necessary for the proper operation of the water works, including the employment of labor, and to do such other things as said commissioners may direct.

SECTION 9. Said commissioners may appoint such other personnel as are deemed necessary for the proper operation of the water system and water department of said town.

SECTION 10. Said commissioners or the selectmen of said town, if they act as water commissioners, shall fix the salary or compensation of all officers or employees appointed or employed by them.

SECTION 11. The action of the annual town meeting of said town on March twentieth, nineteen hundred and seventy-two, where said

town voted unanimously to acquire the company is hereby ratified and confirmed.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

*Approved July 13, 1972.*

**Chap. 691.** AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD TO USE CERTAIN PARK LAND IN SAID CITY FOR PARK AND PLAYGROUND PURPOSES AND TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE THEREON A SKATING ARENA AND TO BORROW MONEY FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of section fourteen of chapter forty-five of the General Laws, the city of Springfield is hereby authorized to use a certain parcel of park land in said city for park and playground purposes, said parcel being bounded and described as follows:—

Beginning at a point in Forest Park, said point being more specifically located as follows: From a point in the easterly line of Trafton Road 64.57 feet southerly from a stone bound at the intersection of the northerly line of Maryland Street and the easterly line of Trafton Road; thence, across Trafton Road and into Forest Park by a bearing of S 63° 53' 00" W a distance of 414.70 feet; thence, continuing in Forest Park by a bearing of N 36° 08' 00" W a distance of 761.39 feet; thence, continuing in Forest Park by a bearing of N 18° 35' 30" W a distance of 139.77 feet to the beginning point; thence, by a bearing of S 83° 07' 40" E a distance of 185.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of N 06° 52' 20" E a distance of 130.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of S 83° 07' 40" E a distance of 192.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of N 06° 52' 20" E a distance of 160.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of N 83° 07' 40" W a distance of 260.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of S 06° 52' 20" W a distance of 108.50 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of N 83° 07' 40" W a distance of 99.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of S 06° 52' 20" W a distance of 36.50 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of N 83° 07' 40" W a distance of 83.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of S 06° 52' 20" W a distance of 100.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of S 83° 07' 40" E a distance of 65.00 feet to a point; thence, by a bearing of S 06° 52' 20" W a distance of 45.00 feet to the beginning point and enclosing 77,343 square feet of land.

SECTION 2. Pursuant to the provisions of section seven of said chapter forty-five, and notwithstanding the provisions of section fourteen of said chapter forty-five, the city of Springfield is hereby authorized to erect, construct, plan, design, equip, furnish, alter, repair, enlarge, operate and maintain a skating arena for hockey, skating and other recreational purposes upon the certain parcel of land described in section one.

SECTION 3. The city of Springfield is hereby authorized to fix from time to time and charge and collect fees for admission to, fees for rental of, and fees for the use or occupancy of said arena or any part or facility thereof and for the granting of concessions therein and for things fur-