

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 1194

H. P. 1053

House of Representatives, February 26, 1953

Referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Larrabee of Westbrook

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-THREE

AN ACT Amending the Charter of the City of Westbrook.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Sec. 1. P. & S. L., 1907, c. 257, § 4, amended. Section 4 of chapter 257 of the private and special laws of 1907 is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 4. Mayor, city clerk, aldermen and other officers, how elected. The mayor, the city clerk and 3 aldermen shall be elected from the citizens at large, by the legal voters of the city voting in their respective wards. Two aldermen, a warden, a ward clerk and 1 constable shall be elected by each ward, being residents in the ward where elected. All of said officers shall be elected by ballot by a plurality of the votes given, and shall hold their offices ~~one year~~ from the first Monday in January, **as follows: the mayor shall be elected for 2 consecutive years; the 2 ward aldermen from each ward shall be elected for the term of 2 years, provided that at the first election following the adoption of this change, one of such aldermen shall be elected for a 1-year term and the second of such aldermen for a 2-year term; aldermen-at-large shall be elected for 3-year terms, provided that at the first election following the adoption of this change, one such alderman shall be elected for a 1-year term, the second such alderman shall be elected**

for a 2-year term and the third such alderman shall be elected for the 3-year term as provided, and until others shall be elected and qualified in their places. All city and ward officers shall be held to discharge the duties of their respective offices, notwithstanding their removal after their election, into any other wards in the city; but they shall not be so held after they have taken up their permanent residence out of the city.'

Sec. 2. P. & S. L., 1907, c. 257, § 29, repealed and replaced. Section 29 of chapter 257 of the private and special laws of 1907 is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

'Sec. 29. Assessors; election, powers, duties, compensation and tenure. There shall be a board of 5 assessors, 1 from each ward, to be elected on the 2nd Monday in January, or as soon as may be thereafter, by the city council by a majority of all its members by roll-call and each shall serve 3 years from the date of election; except that on the 2nd Monday in January following the approval of this act, the board of assessors shall be elected for the following terms:

Ward 1 and Ward 4 shall elect for 3 years;

Ward 2 and Ward 5 shall elect for 2 years;

Ward 3 shall elect for 1 year.

The compensation of the assessors shall be fixed by the city council and shall not be increased or diminished during the municipal year in which the compensation is fixed. All taxes shall be assessed, apportioned and collected in the manner prescribed by the laws of this state relative to town taxes; but the city council may establish further or additional provisions for the collection thereof. The board of assessors shall appoint some suitable and qualified person who shall be known as a "valuator." The valuator shall be an inhabitant of the city at the time of his appointment. He shall be secretary to the board and executive agent in charge of valuations. He shall have no voice in matters of abatements. The city council shall fix his salary, to be paid from the city treasury as salaries of other administrative officers are paid. The 3 senior assessors shall act as a regular board of appeals on all abatements. The remaining 2 assessors shall act as alternates in the absence of regular members. In the event of questionable seniority, it shall be determined by lot. All vacancies occurring in said board by death, resignation or removal from the city shall be filled for the unexpired term by the city council from the ward in which the vacancy occurs.'

Sec. 3. P. & S. L., 1907, c. 257, § 30, sub-§ III, repealed, and sub-§§ IV, V, VI and VII, renumbered. Subsection III of section 30 of chapter 257 of

the private and special laws of 1907 is hereby repealed; and subsection IV, V, VI and VII of said section 30 are hereby renumbered to be III, IV, V and VI, respectively.

Sec. 4. P. & S. L., 1907, c. 257, § 30-A, additional. Chapter 257 of the private and special laws of 1907 is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section, to be numbered 30-A, to read as follows:

'Sec. 30-A. City engineer; appointment, duties, salary. The mayor and $\frac{2}{3}$ of the city council shall engage, under written contract, the services of a qualified engineer whose duties shall be those of road commissioner, public grounds and buildings, building inspector, city electrician, plumbing inspector and whatever further duties as may be called for by the mayor and city council. The wage to be paid such qualified engineer shall be determined by the mayor and city council as aforesaid and the person so hired shall be called the "city engineer." Such contract shall not be for more than 3 years, but may be renewed at the discretion of the mayor and council in office at the time that said contract shall expire.'