

CHAPTER 62.

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EFFICIENCY OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

SECTION

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SECTION

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

Board of commissioners; tenure of office.

SECTION 1. The governor, with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint four persons, residents of the state, who, together with the state librarian, shall constitute a board of library commissioners. The governor shall designate the chairman thereof. Two members of said board shall be appointed for the term of four years, and two for two years, and thereafter the term of office of the commissioners shall be two years. All vacancies in said board shall be filled by the governor with the consent of the council.

Duties of commissioners; report.

SECT. 2. The librarian or trustees of any free public library may ask said board for advice in regard to the selection of books, cataloguing of books, and any other matters pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the library, and the board shall give such advice in regard to said matters as it shall find practicable.

The board shall make a report of its doings to the legislature biennially, which shall be printed in the report of the state librarian.

Authorized to purchase books for towns having no libraries.

SECT. 3. Said board is hereby authorized and directed to expend, upon the application of any town having no free public library owned and controlled by the town, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for books for any such town entitled to the benefits of this act, such books to be used by said town for the purpose of establishing a free public library, and said commissioners shall select and purchase all books to be provided as aforesaid.

Conditions.

SECT. 4. No town shall be entitled to the benefits of this act until such town has accepted the provisions hereof at a regularly called town meeting, and until said town shall have provided in a satisfactory manner to the board of commissioners for the care, custody, and distribution of the books furnished in accordance with this act.

Towns receiving benefits shall appropriate.

SECT. 5. Any town accepting the provisions of this act shall annually appropriate, provide for the use and maintenance of its free public library, a sum not less than fifty dollars if its last assessed valuation was one million dollars or upward, or a sum

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not less than twenty-five dollars if said valuation was less than one million and not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or a sum not less than fifteen dollars if said valuation was less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

SECT. 6. No member of the board of commissioners shall receive any compensation, but the board may expend a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars annually for clerical assistance and incidental and necessary expenses in the discharge of its duties; and all sums expended under the provisions of this act shall be paid from the treasury after the bills therefor have been approved by the board and the governor and council.

Board
allowed for
clerical assist-
ance and
expenses.

SECT. 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
[Approved April 11, 1891.]

Takes effect.