

the time of paying the same," as amended and extended by the act, approved the twenty-third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred fifteen), which relates to the fees charged for filing and docketing municipal and tax liens, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Filing and docketing municipal or tax liens, each, [two dollars] *one dollar*.

APPROVED—The 22d day of May, A. D. 1935.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 102

AN ACT

Creating a Local Government Commission to study and report on functions of local government; their allocation and elimination; the cost of local government and means of reducing it; and the consolidation of local government; and making an appropriation.

Preamble.

Whereas, Local government of small areas was developed in the past principally because of the lack of adequate means of transportation and communication; and

Whereas, The development of local government has not kept step with the development of transportation and communication, and functions of government have been added, from time to time, without proper study or knowledge of the correct allocation of such functions; and

Whereas, The support of local government has become a financial problem, and ways and means should be devised to lessen the existing and ever-increasing cost of local government which is now mainly a burden on real property, and of creating a more scientific and simplified system; therefore

Local government.

Commission.

Officers of the commission.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That a commission is hereby created which shall consist of ten members, five of whom shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and five shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House. The commission shall be known as the "Local Government Commission." The commission shall organize, at the call of the President pro tempore of the Senate, by electing a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary. The secretary need not be a member of the commission. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.

Duty of the commission.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the commission to study and investigate (a) the functions of local government, their proper allocation, and the possibility of elimi-

nating unnecessary functions, and the duplication and overlapping of functions, (b) the cost of local government, and ways and means of reducing this cost and lessening the burden on local taxpayers, (c) the advisability and feasibility of increasing the areas or changing the boundaries of local governments; of establishing larger units for administration by consolidation of units by coöperative arrangements between them for the performance of certain functions, or by other means; and generally ways and means of organizing a simple system of local government, and to exercise such other functions as may be deemed necessary to carry into effect the spirit and intent of this act.

Section 3. The commission shall have power to recommend tentative plans for the consolidation or reorganization of any units of local government or changes in the boundaries thereof. The commission, after holding public hearings, shall prepare and recommend for adoption a plan or plans of local government consolidation, or changes of political boundaries, for any or all units of local government.

Power of the commission.

Section 4. The commission shall make a first report to the Legislature of the session of one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven, not later than February first of that year, said report to contain a statement of the progress of its work and such drafts of legislation and constitutional amendments, if any, as it deems necessary to carry into effect the provisions and objectives of this act, and as will, if enacted, enable the commission to complete its work.

Time fixed for making report.

Section 5. The commission shall have power to employ and fix the compensation of such experts, stenographers, and assistants as may be deemed necessary to carry out the work of the commission, but due diligence shall be exercised by the commission to enlist such voluntary assistance as may be available from citizens, research organizations, and other agencies in Pennsylvania or elsewhere, generally recognized as qualified to aid the commission with information as to existing conditions or advice as to possibilities in governmental economies or reorganization. The Legislative Reference Bureau, The Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Internal Affairs, and other agencies of the Commonwealth, as well as all local governments within the Commonwealth, shall give the commission, on request, such information and assistance as may be reasonably accessible.

Commission may employ experts, stenographers, etc.

Section 6. The term "local government," as used in this act, shall be construed to include counties, cities, boroughs, towns, townships, school districts, and poor districts, except counties of the first and second class, and cities of the first, second, and second class A.

"Local government," defined.

Section 7. The sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby spe-

Appropriation.

cifically appropriated to the commission for the two fiscal years beginning June first, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-five, for the payment of the expenses of the members of the commission; for the compensation and expenses of the secretary and other appointees of the commission; for printing; for postage, supplies, telephone, telegraph, rent, and miscellaneous expenses; and generally for the purposes of carrying into effect the provisions of this act.

APPROVED—The 29th day of May, A. D. 1935.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 103

AN ACT

Requiring return courts, judges, and boards, sitting to record, compute, and certify the returns of any primary, general, municipal, or special election, to take cognizance of the number of registered or enrolled voters by parties of each election district, and the number of persons who voted at said election, and the number of ballots cast thereat, whether said election was conducted by the use of voting machines or paper ballots; providing that any excess of votes, returned over registered or enrolled voters, or over the number of voters or the number of ballots cast, shall be deemed a discrepancy and palpable error requiring investigation; defining the scope and extent of such investigation, and providing for an appeal from the decision thereon; prescribing the effect of such excess; imposing duties on courts of common pleas and judges thereof, county commissioners, county controllers, county treasurers, prothonotaries, registration commissions, and other public officers; and repealing inconsistent legislation.

"Return Board,"  
defined.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the words "Return Board," as used in this act, shall mean any court of common pleas, or any judge or judges of said court, any county commissioners, or any public officers whatsoever, sitting with others or alone as a court or board to record, compute, and certify the returns of any primary, general, municipal, or special election; the word "election," as used herein, shall mean any primary, general, municipal, or special election; the word "ballot" shall include a vote cast on a voting machine; the words "ballot box" shall include a voting machine; and the words "recount of ballots" shall include recanvass of a voting machine.

"Election,"  
defined.

"Ballot box,"  
defined.

"Recount of  
ballots,"  
defined.

Duty of  
return board.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of every return board to take cognizance of the number of registered or enrolled electors of each political party, and the total number of registered or enrolled electors of all parties of each election district, and of the number of persons who voted, and the number of ballots cast in each election district, as certified by the election officers, before entering, recording, or computing any votes from said district cast at any election.

Duty of registra-  
tion officials.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Board of Registration Commissioners as to each city of the first or sec-