

## No. 152.

## AN ACT

To incorporate the Pennsylvania Fire Company, and the Diligent Fire-Engine Company of Philadelphia.

SECT. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That all and every the persons who shall, at the time of the passing of this act, be members of the association called the "Pennsylvania fire company," shall be and they are hereby created and declared to be one body politic and corporate, by the name, style and title of the "Pennsylvania fire company;" and by the same name shall have perpetual succession; and shall be able to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded in all courts of record or elsewhere; and to purchase, receive, have, hold and enjoy, to them and their successors, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, franchises and hereditaments, goods and chattels of what nature, kind or quality soever, real, personal or mixed, or choses in action, and the same from time to time to sell, grant, devise, alien or dispose of: *Provided,* That the clear yearly value or income of the necessary houses, lands and tenements, rents, annuities or other hereditaments, and real estate of the said corporation, and the interest of money by it lent, shall not exceed the sum of one thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents; and also to make and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure; and also to ordain, establish and put in execution such by-laws, ordinances and regulations as shall appear necessary and convenient for the government of the said corporation, not being contrary to this charter or to the constitution and laws of the United States or of this commonwealth; and generally to do all and singular the matters and things which to them it shall lawfully appertain to do for the well being of the said corporation, and the due management and ordering of the affairs thereof.

Pennsylvania fire company incorporated.

Privileges and liabilities.

Proviso: Annual income limited.

Seal, by-laws, &c.

SECT. 2. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the following shall be the fundamental articles of the said company.

Articles of association.

ARTICLE I. The objects of this company shall be the extinguishment of fires, and the relief of such of their members as may suffer by fire.

Objects.

ARTICLE II. The officers of the company shall consist of a president, secretary, treasurer and board of engineers, (whose number shall be fixed by the company,) who shall

Officers.

- be elected by ballot, semi-annually; and the duties of the aforesaid officers shall be particularly enumerated in the by-laws: *Provided always*, That vacancies, occasioned by death, resignation, removal for dereliction of duty, refusal to accept office, or otherwise, may be supplied at any time, upon notice thereof given to the said company by any of the officers.
- Vacancies.**
- Stated and special meetings.** ARTICLE III. Stated meetings shall be held at least quarterly, and special meetings in such manner as the by-laws may direct. Ten members shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of those convened, shall govern, except in an alteration of the by-laws or expulsion of a member, when the concurrence of two thirds of the members present shall be required, and the matter be proposed at a preceding stated meeting.
- Elections, &c.** ARTICLE IV. Elections for members shall be by ballot, and the company may bestow the privilege of honorary membership under such regulations as the by-laws may prescribe.
- Entrance money, fines, &c.** ARTICLE V. Each person shall be liable to an entrance contribution on admission to membership, and to such fines as the by-laws may prescribe; and his resignation of membership shall not be accepted until his dues are paid or remitted.
- Expulsion of members.** ARTICLE VI. Any member may be removed from office or expelled from the company for neglecting an attendance at the meetings and fires for one year, for a violation of these articles, for breach of trust or improper conduct: *Provided*, he is afforded an opportunity of making a defence before the company.
- Charitable fund.** ARTICLE VII. The members being associated for the public good and for the individual relief of each other, the company may establish a charitable fund to relieve such of their members as may suffer by fire, under such regulations as the by-laws may prescribe and declare.
- Company debarred from certain privileges.** SECT. 3. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That nothing in this act contained shall be deemed to authorise the said company to engage, directly or indirectly, in any banking, monied, commercial, mining or manufacturing concerns, or to act in any other way than as a fire company.
- Duration of this act.** SECT. 4. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That this act shall continue in force thirty years from the passing thereof, and no longer, for the purposes aforesaid; and the legislature reserves the right to alter, amend or annul this charter at any time hereafter.
- Incorporation of Diligent fire engine company.** SECT. 5. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That all and every the persons, who shall at the time of the passing of this act, be members of the association, called the Diligent Fire Engine company of Philadelphia, shall be and they are hereby created and declared, to be one body politic and corporate, by the name, style and title of "The Diligent

Fire Engine company of Philadelphia;" and by the same name shall have perpetual succession; and shall be able to sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded in all courts of record or elsewhere, and to take, receive and hold all, and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises, and other hereditaments, which at any time or times, heretofore have been granted, bargained, sold, enfeofed, released, devised or otherwise conveyed, to the said Diligent Fire Engine company, or to any person or persons for their use, or in trust for them; and the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises, and other hereditaments, are hereby vested and established in the said corporation, and their successors forever; and the said corporation and their successors are hereby declared, to be seized and possessed of such estate or estates therein, as in and by the respective grants, bargains, sales, enfeoffments, releases, devises, or other conveyances thereof, is or are declared limited and expressed; and also that the said corporation and their successors at all times hereafter, shall be able to purchase, receive, have, hold and enjoy to them and their successors, all and all manner of lands, tenements, rents, annuities, liberties, franchises, and other hereditaments, goods and chattels, of what nature, kind or quality soever, real, personal or mixed, or choses in action, and the same, from time to time, to sell, grant, demise, alien and dispose of: *Provided*, That the clear yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands and tenements, rents, annuities or other hereditaments, and the real estate of the said corporation, and the interest of money by them lent, shall not exceed the sum of thirteen hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents; and also to make and have a common seal, and the same to break, alter, and renew at pleasure; and also to ordain, establish and put in execution, such by-laws, ordinances and regulations, as shall appear necessary and convenient for the government of the said corporation, not being contrary to the constitution and laws of the United States, or of this commonwealth; and generally to do all and singular, the matters and things, which to them it shall lawfully appertain, to do for the well being of the said corporation, and the due management and ordering of the affairs thereof.

Privileges,  
liabilities,  
&c.

Proviso.  
Limit to in-  
come.

Seal.

By-laws, &c.

SECT. 6. *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, This corporation shall not consist of more than one hundred active members, who shall be elected by ballot; but previous to the admission of a member, he must be proposed by one member, and seconded by another, at a stated meeting, and balloted for at the next stated meeting, when upon receiving the votes of two thirds of the members present, and upon signing the articles of the company, shall become an active member; and while he continues as such, shall be subject to such fines and contributions as the laws of the company

No. of mem-  
bers.  
Admission  
thereof, &c.

may impose; and also that this corporation may bestow the privilege of honorary membership, on such active members as they may think proper, and under such regulations as the by-laws may prescribe.

**Election of officers.** **SECT. 7.** *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the officers of this corporation shall be a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot at the stated meeting in January, and four directors, who shall be elected in the same way, at the stated meetings in January and July, in each year; and in case of any vacancy, in any or either of the offices aforesaid, by death, removal from office, or refusal to serve, it shall be supplied by a new election.

**Stated and special meetings.** **SECT. 8.** *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That the stated meetings of the company, shall be held on the evenings of the second Monday of every month, and that adjourned and special meetings may be held, as the company shall see meet, or circumstances may require, but no business shall be transacted at any meeting, unless a quorum, which shall consist of ten members, be present, except to call the roll and then adjourn.

**Debarred from certain privileges.** **SECT. 9.** *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That nothing in this act contained, shall be deemed to authorise the said company, to engage, directly or indirectly, in any banking, monied, commercial, mining or manufacturing concerns, or to act in any other way than as a fire company.

**Duration of charter. Proviso. Right to revoke at any time.** **SECT. 10.** *And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,* That this act shall continue in force thirty years, from the passing thereof, and no longer, for the purposes aforesaid: *Provided always,* That if it shall appear that the charter, or privileges hereby granted to the said company, are injurious to the citizens of this commonwealth, the legislature shall have full power to alter, annul and repeal this act, at any time they may think proper.

FREDK. SMITH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

WM. G. HAWKINS,

*Speaker of the Senate.*

APPROVED—The first day of April, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one.

GEO. WOLF.