

No. 442

AN ACT

Relative to the establishment and jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in Philadelphia, and creating a board of magistrates; providing for a chief magistrate; prescribing their powers and duties; providing for clerks; establishing a central administrative office; imposing upon the City of Philadelphia the cost of establishment and maintenance of magistrates' courts, including payment of all salaries; fixing salaries and restricting magistrates to duties of office; and repealing certain prior acts.

Magistrates' courts in Philadelphia.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That this act shall be known and may be cited as "Magistrates' Courts Act, one thousand nine hundred twenty-seven."

Short title.

Courts established.

Section 2. There are hereby established in Philadelphia twenty-eight courts, not of record, of police and civil causes, with jurisdiction not exceeding one hundred dollars.

Composition of court.

Section 3. Each of such courts shall be held by one magistrate, whose term of office shall be six years, and it shall be the duty of the council of the City of Philadelphia, on or before the first day of January of every sixth year hereafter, and whenever else it may be necessary, to fix the general location of each of the said courts by declaring between which streets or roads it shall be, so as to be most convenient for suitors and for the despatch of the public business.

Location.

Courts to be designated by number.

Section 4. The said courts shall be numbered in regular numerical order and shall be severally styled "Magistrate's Court number . . . ." and shall be located by their numbers by the council of said city.

Seal.

Section 5. The said magistrates' courts shall have a seal, with the coat of arms of the State of Pennsylvania engraved thereon, and for legend "Magistrate's Court number . . . . of the city of Philadelphia," inserting the number of the court in said legend.

Magistrates now in office.

Section 6. The magistrates in office at the date of the approval of this act shall hold their respective offices for their unexpired terms, if they shall so long behave themselves well. The qualified electors of said city at large shall, at the time fixed for the election of municipal officers in said city immediately preceding the expiration of the term of any magistrate or magistrates, elect, on general ticket, a successor or successors to any whose terms are about to expire as now provided by law.

Election of successors.

Term.

Section 7. All magistrates shall hold their offices for the term of six years from the first Monday of January next succeeding their election, if they shall so long behave themselves well; and in the election of said magistrates, no voter shall vote for more than two-thirds of the number of persons to be elected, when more than one are to be chosen. Said magistrates shall be voted for on the general ticket as now provided by law.

Election.

Section 8. The said magistrates shall be at least thirty-five years of age, and shall have resided for at least five years immediately preceding their election in the City of Philadelphia, and must be natural born citizens, or naturalized citizens for at least ten years, and shall be qualified voters thereof.

Qualifications.

Section 9. No magistrate shall practice as an attorney-at-law in any court in this Commonwealth or elsewhere during his continuance in office as a magistrate.

Magistrate not to practice as an attorney.

Section 10. After the City Council has located the said courts by numbers, and before said magistrates shall enter upon the discharge of their duties, they shall assemble in the presence of the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia and draw lots, in the order of the alphabetical rotation of their surnames, for the right to choose which of the courts so located shall be held by each, and when they shall have all drawn lots, the magistrate who shall have the first choice shall choose from the whole number of courts which court he desires to select as his court and the number and location of the court chosen by him shall be the court which he shall hold till the expiration of his term of office. After the magistrate having the first choice shall have selected his court, the magistrate having the second choice shall proceed to select his court in the same manner, and so on until all the magistrates shall have selected their courts in the order of the lots drawn by them.

Assignment of elected magistrates to courts.

Section 11. The Council shall not change the localities of the respective courts during the terms for which the said magistrates shall have been elected, and thereafter, at the expiration of the term of six years for which the said magistrates have been elected, their successors shall be elected and select their courts in the manner hereinbefore set forth.

Localities not to be changed during term.

Section 12. After the magistrates have selected their courts as aforesaid, it shall be the duty of the mayor of the city to certify to the Governor of the Commonwealth the names of the several magistrates, with the number of the court selected by each, and the Governor shall forthwith commission each of said magistrates, as of the court chosen by each, which commission shall be duly recorded in the office for the recording of deeds for the City and County of Philadelphia.

Commissions.

Commission to be recorded.

Section 13. Before entering upon the discharge of his duties, each of said magistrates shall take and subscribe the following oath before one of the judges of the courts of common pleas for the County of Philadelphia: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity; that I have not paid or contributed, or promised to pay or contribute, either directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing to procure my nomination or election (or appointment), except for necessary and proper expenses expressly

Oath.

Bond.

authorized by law; that I have not knowingly violated any election law of this Commonwealth, or procured it to be done by others in my behalf; that I will not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing for the performance or nonperformance of any act or duty pertaining to my office, other than the compensation allowed by law"; and they and each of them shall give bond in the sum of three thousand dollars, with two or more sufficient sureties, who shall be freeholders, and approved by one of the judges of the courts of common pleas of said county, or shall give a surety company bond, which bond shall be taken by the prothonotary of said court, in the name of the Commonwealth, with conditions for the faithful performance of his duties and proper application of all moneys that shall come into his hands as such magistrate; and such bond shall be held in trust for the benefit of all persons, the City of Philadelphia, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who may sustain injury from said magistrate in his official capacity; and said sureties shall in no case be liable, unless proceedings be commenced within six years from the time such cause of action shall accrue; and said bond shall forthwith be recorded in the said office for recording deeds. Copies of the record of any such bond, recorded as aforesaid and duly certified by the recorder of deeds for the time being, shall be good evidence in any action brought against the obligors, according to its form and effect, in the same manner as the original would be if produced and offered in evidence.

Certified copies of record to be evidence.

Vacancies.

Section 14. Should any vacancy happen in the office of magistrate, either by death, resignation, disqualification, removal, or otherwise, said vacancy shall be filled for the full term of six years, in the manner hereinbefore set forth, at the next succeeding municipal election held in said City of Philadelphia after said vacancy shall happen, and it shall be the duty of the Governor in the meantime to appoint and commission a suitable person to fill said vacancy until the first Monday of January next succeeding the first municipal election after said vacancy shall happen: Provided however, That if said vacancy shall happen within twenty days before any municipal election, said vacancy shall not be filled until the second succeeding municipal election thereafter, and the Governor shall appoint and commission a suitable person to fill said vacancy until the first Monday of January after said second municipal election.

Conduct of court during sickness or absence of magistrate.

Section 15. In case any of said magistrates shall, from sickness or any other cause, be unable to attend his court for more than ten days, one of the other magistrates having the nearest court shall have the power to take charge of all suits or proceedings before him and conduct the same during his absence.

Civil and criminal docket to be kept.

Section 16. A civil and criminal docket shall be kept in each of said courts, by the magistrate holding the same, in which shall be entered daily all proceedings of said

court, and it shall be the duty of the magistrate receiving any costs, fees, fines, penalties, or other moneys, to note the same in the margin of the proper docket opposite to the entry of the case in respect to which the same is received, with the date at which and the name of the person from whom the same was received, together with the date when and the person to whom the same was paid.

Section 17. The said dockets shall be open to the inspection of any citizen during the hours when the court is required to be kept open. It shall also be the duty of each of the said magistrates to keep a daybook in which he shall enter all costs, fees, fines, and penalties collected by him, with the date when, the person from whom, and the purpose for which, the same was received. He shall also note therein the time when and the manner in which the same is disposed of, and the books and papers of said court, including said daybooks, shall be the property of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They shall pay over to the city treasurer, within five days after the first Monday of every month, all costs of suits, fees, fines, penalties, and other sums of money received during the preceding month, excepting constables' fees, which shall be paid said constables directly by said magistrates, during the preceding month, except such costs and judgments as the parties to any proceeding before them may by law be entitled to receive, and shall, at the same time, furnish to the controller of the said city, under oath or affirmation, an accurate account of all moneys so paid either into the city treasury or to the said constables, and the controller of said city shall not countersign any warrant for the monthly payment of the salary of any magistrate until he is satisfied, from inspection by himself or deputy of the dockets, daybook, or other books of said magistrate, that the said accounts are correct. If any magistrate shall fail to comply with any of the provisions of this section, or of section sixteen hereof, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be liable to removal from office.

Section 18. The jurisdiction of each of said magistrates shall extend throughout the City and County of Philadelphia, and they shall be, by virtue of their office, ex officio justices of the peace. They shall have all the powers and shall exercise the same jurisdiction, civil and criminal, (except as herein otherwise provided) as was formerly by law exercised by aldermen of said city, and shall be liable to the same limitations and restrictions, pains and penalties, that were formerly imposed upon aldermen by the laws of this Commonwealth; and, where by law two aldermen were required to hear and determine any matter brought before them, the same jurisdiction shall be exercised by one magistrate.

Section 19. In all actions brought before such magistrates on any contract for the payment of money, either expressed or implied, if the plaintiff shall file, at any time before the issuing of the summons in any such case, an

Dockets open to inspection.

Daybook to be kept.

Costs, etc., to be paid to treasurer monthly.

Account to be furnished to controller of city.

Failure to comply.

Jurisdiction.

Pleadings in actions on contract.

- Affidavit of claim.** affidavit stating the amount he verily believes to be due from the defendant, together with a copy of the book entries or instrument of writing upon which the action is brought, or, where the claims are not evidenced by writing, if the plaintiff shall file, as aforesaid, an affidavit setting forth a full and detailed statement of the same, it shall be the duty of the magistrate to make a copy of such affidavit, duly certify the same and deliver it to the constable to whom the summons is issued, which certified copy shall be served at the time and in the manner that service is made of the summons in that case; and the magistrate shall render judgment in favor of the plaintiff for the amount of his claim, unless the defendant, at or before the time at which the summons is made returnable, shall have filed with the magistrate an affidavit of defense setting forth fully the nature and character of the same:
- Service of copy of affidavit of claim.** Provided, That the affidavit required by this action may be made by the agent of the party, where such agent is cognizant of the facts constituting the cause of action or defense or other matters set forth: And provided further, That nothing contained in this act shall be construed to alter, impair or abridge the right of any person to appeal from the judgment of the magistrate, or to certiorari the proceedings to the court of common pleas of said county as in other cases.
- Affidavit of defense.**
- Proviso.**
- Proviso.**
- Appeal from summary conviction.** Section 20. In all cases of summary conviction before said magistrates, either party may appeal to the court of quarter sessions of said county, upon the allowance of any judge thereof, upon cause shown; and either party may also appeal from the judgment of said magistrates in a suit for a penalty to the courts of common pleas of said county, upon the allowance of any of the judges thereof upon cause shown, provided, however, that this enactment shall not affect any right of appeal under existing laws.
- Appeal in suits for penalty.**
- Delivery of docket and papers to successor.** Section 21. It shall be the duty of magistrates of the City of Philadelphia, as and when their respective terms from time to time expire, to deliver to their successors in office all dockets, notes, bonds, and other papers connected with their offices; and every magistrate who shall refuse or neglect, for the period of thirty days after he has vacated his office, to deliver said books and papers as aforesaid, shall be subject to a penalty of one hundred dollars, to be recovered as penalties of like amounts are received; and, in case of the death of any magistrate, all persons having possession of the books and papers aforesaid of said deceased magistrate shall, under like penalties, deliver said books and papers to his successor in office, or, if no successor has been appointed or elected, to the magistrate whose court is located nearest to the office of said deceased magistrate. In case of neglect or refusal of any magistrate whose term shall have expired, to deliver said books and papers to his successor in office, he shall be compelled so to do by decree and attachment against him, which may be made and issued by any court of com-
- Penalty for refusal or neglect.**
- May be compelled to deliver books and papers by attachment.**

mon pleas of Philadelphia County, or by any judge thereof in vacation, on application being made therefor by any person, and the said magistrate to whom said books and papers are delivered shall have power to issue process and proceed thereon with like effect as said magistrate might have done had he continued in office, provided that, in case the magistrate to whom such books and papers may be delivered shall be a party to or interested in any suit or judgment therein, such suit or judgment shall be proceeded in by some other magistrate in said city, to whom a transcript shall be furnished as well as the original docket, if required on the trial.

Section 22. Each magistrate shall select, from the constables in commission in the City of Philadelphia, such number, not exceeding three, as shall be necessary to the prompt service of process and the efficient performance of all other duties of constable. They shall hold their office at the pleasure of the magistrate; shall give bond in manner and form as now required by law; and be subject to all liabilities and restrictions, have all the powers, and perform all the duties now by law attached to the office of constable in the City of Philadelphia.

Constables.

Section 23. The said magistrates shall, from time to time, select from among their number such magistrates as shall be necessary to act as committing magistrates at the several police stations in the City of Philadelphia, and in doing so they shall in all cases assign magistrates to duty at the station or stations which shall be most convenient to the place where their courts are held. No magistrate shall receive any additional compensation for acting as committing magistrate at any police station.

Committing magistrates.

Section 24. The said magistrates' courts shall be open from nine o'clock in the morning until four o'clock in the afternoon of each and every juridical day: Provided, however, That the said magistrates may issue process and hear causes at any time.

When courts to be open.

Section 25. From and after the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, there shall be a board of magistrates, consisting of a chief city magistrate and such other magistrates as are provided in this act. On the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the magistrates shall assemble and, by a majority vote of the whole body in office, elect, from among their number, a chief city magistrate, to act as such from said first day of July for the remainder of the term for which he shall have been elected or appointed as magistrate, and, before the expiration of said term the magistrates, by a majority vote of the whole body in office, shall elect from among their number a chief city magistrate to act as such, in succession to him whose term as magistrate is about to expire, and to hold office from and after the expiration of said term until his own term as magistrate shall expire, and so on, from time to time thereafter, as the term of office

Board of magistrates.

Chief city magistrate.

**Duties.** of any magistrate who has been elected chief city magistrate shall be about to expire, the magistrates, by a majority vote of the whole body in office, shall elect from among their number a chief city magistrate, to serve until his own term as magistrate shall expire: Provided, however, That any magistrate, upon being re-elected to office as such magistrate, shall continue eligible to re-election from time to time as chief city magistrate. The chief city magistrate, in addition to the exercise of all the powers of a magistrate, shall be the administrative head of, and have general supervision of, the business of all of the courts held by magistrates as provided for in this act, or as otherwise provided by law, and he shall preside, and be entitled to vote at, all meetings of the board of magistrates. Subject to the provisions of this act, he shall prescribe the hours for attendance of magistrates and of clerks and employes thereat. He shall establish and supervise a system for keeping the records of the magistrates' courts, and shall have such other powers and duties as are provided in this act, or as otherwise provided by law.

**Duties of board of magistrates.**

Section 26. It shall be the duty of the board of magistrates to meet at least four times in each year at such hour and place as the board may determine, and at such other times as it may be convened by the chief city magistrate, for the consideration of matters concerning the administration of criminal justice in any of the magistrates' courts. At said meetings the board shall receive or cause to be investigated all complaints presented to it pertaining to said courts, or to the magistrates, officers, or employes of said courts, and shall take such steps as it may deem necessary or proper in respect thereof; and the board shall have the power, except as herein otherwise provided, and it shall be its duty, from time to time, to make, alter, and amend rules regulating the practice and procedure which shall be uniform so far as practicable in all said magistrates' courts. All rules shall be printed within a reasonable time after their adoption. Whenever requested by five or more magistrates, the chief city magistrate shall call a special meeting of the board for the purposes set forth in such request. The board of magistrates shall prescribe, by rule or rules or other proper order or orders, for the sitting of magistrates, in convenient number, to take bail between the hours of four o'clock post meridian and nine o'clock ante meridian of the succeeding day. The magistrates appointed for such purpose shall rotate as far as practicable, and lists of assignments and places of service for said purpose shall be published from time to time.

**Investigation of complaints.**

**Making of rules.**

**Special meeting.**

**Costs of supplies salaries, etc.**

Section 27. It shall be the duty of the City of Philadelphia to supply and pay for whatever may be necessary for the transaction of the business of said magistrates' courts, and to supply all proper court rooms and accommodations, including waiting rooms, withdrawing rooms, dockets, blank books, legal blanks, stationery, furniture

and equipment, and such lawbooks as may be certified by the chief city magistrate to be necessary for the use of the magistrates' courts, and to pay all salaries, compensations, expenses and disbursements that are herein or are otherwise authorized by law; and it shall be the duty of the council of the said city to appropriate annually a sum sufficient to pay such salaries, compensations, expenses, and disbursements. The said dockets, blank books, legal blanks, and stationery shall be uniform in character. The court rooms, waiting rooms, and withdrawing rooms, accommodations, furniture and equipment to be supplied shall be of such character and be kept in such condition of repair, cleanliness, and useful service at the expense of said city as the chief city magistrate, with the approval of the City Council, shall determine to be necessary or desirable.

Care of rooms, etc.

Section 28. There shall be a clerk for each court held by a magistrate, each magistrate being authorized to appoint a clerk to serve in his own court. Appointments of clerks shall be during good behavior. The duties of each clerk shall be such as shall from time to time be prescribed for him by the magistrate in whose court he is employed, and as prescribed by administrative rule or rules to be established by the board of magistrates, with the approval of the chief city magistrate.

Clerks.

Duties.

Section 29. On or before the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred twenty-seven, and thereafter whenever a vacancy occurs, the chief city magistrate shall appoint a chief clerk and a deputy stenographic clerk, who shall respectively perform such duties as may be required of them by this act, and by the chief city magistrate, and by rules adopted by the board of magistrates. The chief clerk and deputy stenographic clerk shall be entitled to serve so long as they respectively behave themselves well. Each clerk of a magistrate's court shall file with the chief clerk each month a report of the criminal business of said magistrate's court during the preceding month and such other reports, from time to time, as the chief city magistrate shall require. The chief clerk shall cause suitable blanks to be prepared and furnished for such purpose.

Chief clerk and deputy stenographic clerk.

Terms.

Clerks to make monthly report.

Section 30. On or before the twentieth day of January of each year, the chief clerk shall prepare an annual report to the chief city magistrate of the business of all the magistrates' courts on the criminal side during the preceding calendar year, and of the attendance and proceedings of the magistrates thereat, in such form as the chief city magistrate shall prescribe. Upon the approval of such annual report by the chief city magistrate, duly authenticated copies thereof shall be filed with the mayor and comptroller of the city of Philadelphia and the report or a synopsis thereof shall be printed promptly.

Annual report.

Section 31. The chief clerk and each clerk of a magistrate's court, respectively, shall, in addition to the duties in this act prescribed, keep such records for the use of said

Records to be kept for use of chief city magistrate and board.

chief city magistrate and the board of magistrates, as he may be required or directed by the chief city magistrate to keep, but it shall always be necessary to make a record of the name and address of any attorney appearing in respect of any charge or on any hearing.

Central administrative office.

Section 32. A principal or central administrative office shall be established and maintained by the chief clerk, under the directions of the chief city magistrate, in the City Hall, or at some other convenient central place, at the expense of the city, at which there shall be an information bureau for the benefit of the public. Through said office as the centre, such contact with the several magistrates' courts shall be made and preserved as may be found necessary or desirable for the proper supervision by the chief city magistrate of the work of the magistrates' courts in criminal matters. The said central administrative office shall be made available and be used as the office of the chief city magistrate for the performance of his duties as such. At said office may be presented or submitted by the public, complaints touching the administration by any magistrate or magistrates of his or their court or courts. Said complaints shall be promptly filed by or under the direction of the chief clerk and be submitted to the chief city magistrate for his attention as administrative and supervising head of the business of the magistrates' courts.

Magistrate or employe not to have other occupation.

Section 33. No magistrate or any clerk or other officer or employe of any magistrate's court or office provided for in this act shall, between the hours of nine ante meridian and four post meridian, and when assigned on special duty, except as permitted by the rules of the board of magistrates, engage in any other business or profession; and they shall respectively devote their whole time and capacity, so far as the public interest demands, to the duties of their respective offices; and no magistrate or clerk or other officer or employe provided for herein shall demand or receive to his own use any fees, moneys, or perquisites of office.

Not to receive fees or perquisites.

Removal of clerks.

Section 34. Each magistrate may remove the clerk employed in his own court, and a majority of the board of magistrates may remove for cause the chief clerk or deputy stenographic clerk. In every case of removal of the chief clerk or deputy stenographic clerk, the true grounds thereof shall forthwith be entered upon the records of the board.

Salaries of magistrates.

Section 35. Each magistrate shall receive a salary for his services of five thousand dollars per annum. The chief city magistrate shall receive, in addition to his salary as magistrate, a salary of one thousand dollars per annum. Said salaries shall be paid by the city in monthly payments on the first Monday of each month.

Salaries of clerks.

Section 36. Each clerk of a magistrate's court shall receive a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars per annum; the chief clerk, a salary of two thousand five hundred dollars per annum; and the deputy stenographic clerk,

a salary of one thousand eight hundred dollars per annum. Said salaries shall be paid by the city in monthly payments on the first Monday of each month.

Section 37. The following acts are hereby repealed: The act, approved the fifth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five (Pamphlet Laws, fifty-six), entitled "An act relative to the establishment and jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in the City of Philadelphia."

Repeal.

Act of February 5,  
1875 (P. L. 56).

The act, approved the twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four (Pamphlet Laws, two hundred twenty-four), entitled "An act relative to the establishment and jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in the City of Philadelphia."

Act of May 25,  
1874 (P. L. 224).

The act, approved the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one (Pamphlet Laws, thirty-six), entitled "An act to amend an act, entitled 'An act relative to the establishment and jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in the City of Philadelphia, approved the fifth day of February, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five,' by providing for payment of constables' fees to them directly instead of the city treasurer."

Act of June 1,  
1881 (P. L. 36).

The act, approved the first day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven (Pamphlet Laws, one), entitled "An act relative to the establishment and jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in the City of Philadelphia in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution of this Commonwealth."

Act of February 1,  
1887 (P. L. 1).

The act, approved the twenty-second day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seven (Pamphlet Laws, thirty), entitled "An act to amend section twelve of an act, entitled 'An act relative to the establishment and jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in the city of Philadelphia,' approved the fifth day of February, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, by authorizing magistrates, in actions before them on contract, when the plaintiff has filed a sworn statement of claim, to enter judgment for the plaintiff unless the defendant file an affidavit of defense."

Act of March 22,  
1907 (P. L. 30).

The act, approved the twenty-ninth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen (Pamphlet Laws, three hundred twenty-one), entitled "An act amending an act approved the fifth day of February, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, entitled 'An act relative to the establishment and jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in the City of Philadelphia,' increasing salaries."

Act of May 29,  
1917 (P. L. 321).

The act, approved the twenty-third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen (Pamphlet Laws, two hundred sixty-six), entitled "An act to amend section five, of an act, approved the fifth day of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five (Pamphlet Laws, fifty-six), entitled 'An act relative to the establishment and

Act of May 23,  
1919 (P. L. 266).

jurisdiction of magistrates' courts in the City of Philadelphia.' "

Repeal not to affect pending proceedings.

Section 38. The repeal of any of the above-mentioned acts of Assembly shall not affect any civil cause or criminal prosecution or complaint pending at the date when this act goes into effect, in any magistrate's court as then existing and constituted, but all such pending civil causes or criminal prosecutions or complaints shall be proceeded with to the termination thereof, respectively, in the same manner and under the same authority and with like effect as prior to the passage of this act, the full jurisdiction of the several magistrates' courts, as existing and constituted prior to this act becoming effective, being retained for all purpose in respect to pending proceedings therein, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Constitutionality.

Section 39. If any provision of this act shall be held by any court to be unconstitutional, such judgment shall not affect any other section or provision of the same. It is hereby declared as a legislative intent that this act would have been passed had such unconstitutional provision not been included therein.

Effective date.

Section 40. Excepting as otherwise provided herein, this act shall take effect on the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven.

APPROVED—The 10th day of May, A. D. 1927.

JOHN S. FISHER

No. 443

AN ACT

To amend section five of the act, approved the seventh day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three (Pamphlet Laws, one hundred and fifty-eight), entitled "An act creating a Legislative Reference Bureau; providing for the election of a director by the General Assembly; designating the officers and employes of such bureau, defining their duties, fixing their salaries, abolishing the present Legislative Reference Bureau; and making an appropriation.

Legislative Reference Bureau.

Section 5 of act of May 7, 1923 (P. L. 158), amended.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That section five of the act, approved the seventh day of May, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three (Pamphlet Laws, one hundred and fifty-eight), entitled "An act creating a Legislative Reference Bureau; providing for the election of a director by the General Assembly; designating the officers and employes of such bureau, defining their duties, fixing their salaries, abolishing the present Legislative Reference Bureau; and making an appropriation," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Compilers and clerks.

Section 5. The director shall also appoint a chief compiler, learned in the law, who shall be a skilled *bill* drafter, and who shall receive a salary [of thirty-six] *not exceeding forty-eight* hundred dollars per annum; a compiler and bill drafter, learned in the law, at an annual salary [of three]