



McGee new text to H3511

Mr. McGee move to amend the bill SECTION 1. Section 2 of chapter 55 of the acts of 1928, as appearing in section 53 of chapter 17 of the acts of 1947, is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The representative town meeting membership shall consist in each precinct of 5 members, who shall be elected for terms of 2 years each by official ballot at a biennial town election in an even-numbered year.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 17 of the acts of 1947 is hereby amended by striking out the first sentence, as most recently amended by chapter 27 of the acts of 1994, and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The regular town election of the town of Saugus, to elect town officers, including town meeting members and the housing authority and to submit questions to the voters of the town if required to be submitted at that election shall be held on the first Wednesday following the third Monday in April, or the Wednesday following Patriots Day, between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm.

SECTION 3. The second paragraph of section 1A of said chapter 17, as inserted by section 1 of chapter 99 of the acts of 2011, is hereby amended by striking out the words “on the ballot” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- on the same election ballot.

SECTION 4. Said chapter 17 is hereby further amended by striking out section 2, as appearing in section 1 of chapter 545 of the acts of 1981, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 2. Election of Selectmen. At the town election held in each year, the registered voters of the town shall elect 5 selectmen who shall hold office for a term of 3 years. In the event a selectman, duly elected by the voters, shall fail to serve out the selectman’s term of office, the town clerk shall declare said office vacant and declare the candidate for selectmen at the most recent town election who failed to be elected, but received the next highest number of votes, as selectman; provided, however, that such person remains eligible and provided further, that such person received votes at least equal to 30 per cent of the vote total received by the person receiving the largest number of votes for the office of selectman at that election. Such person shall serve until the next annual town election at which the balance of the unexpired term, if any, shall be filled by the voters.

If no such runner-up candidate exists, the vacancy shall be filled by the remaining selectmen. The selectmen shall nominate 1 or more candidates to fill the position. The person so elected to fill a vacancy on the selectmen shall serve only until the next regular election at which time the remaining term of office, if any, shall be filled by the voters and the person chosen to fill such vacancy shall be sworn and shall serve for the then remaining unexpired term. A person serving as selectmen under this section shall not be entitled to have the words “candidate for re-election” printed against that person’s name on the election ballot.

SECTION 5. Said chapter 17 is hereby further amended by striking out sections 4 to 4B, inclusive, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 4. Election of School Committee. The registered voters of the town shall elect 5 members of the school committee, who shall hold office for 3 years.

Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of school committee, the vacancy shall be filled by the candidate for election to the school committee at the most recent town election who failed to be elected, but who received the next highest number of votes; provided, however, that such person remains eligible and provided further, that such person received votes at least equal to 30 per cent of the vote total received by the person receiving the largest number of votes for the office of school committee at that election. Such person shall serve until the next annual town election at which the balance of the unexpired term, if any, shall be filled by the voters.

If no such runner-up candidate exists, the vacancy shall be filled by a joint convention of the remaining members of school committee and the board of selectmen. The school committee shall nominate 1 or more candidates to fill the position and a majority vote of the joint convention shall be required to confirm such nomination. A person so elected to fill a vacancy on the school committee shall serve only until the next regular election at which time the remaining term of office, if any, shall be filled by the voters and the person chosen to fill such vacancy shall be sworn and shall serve for the then remaining unexpired term. A person serving as school committee member under this section shall not be entitled to have the words "candidate for re-election" printed against that person's names on the election ballot.

SECTION 6. Said chapter 17 is hereby further amended by inserting after section 6 the following 2 sections:-

Section 6A. Housing Authority. Notwithstanding section 1 of chapter 756 of the acts of 1967 governing the election of members of the Saugus housing authority, 2 members of the housing authority shall be elected at the town elections held in odd-numbered years for terms of 4 years to fill the expiring terms of office; and 2 members of the housing authority shall be elected at the town elections held in even-numbered years for terms of 4 years to fill the expiring terms of office.

Section 6B. Other Officers to be Elected at Town Elections. In addition to the town officers who are to be elected under this act, members of a housing authority as provided in the third paragraph of section 5 of chapter 121B of the General Laws, and such members of regional authorities or districts as may be established by statute, inter-local agreement or otherwise, may also be elected at town elections.

SECTION 7. Section 2 shall apply to town elections beginning in the year 2014; provided, however, that the 50 town meeting members to be elected in November 2013 shall serve until the annual town election in April 2016.

SECTION 8. Section 4 shall apply to the annual town election in April 2014. The term

of the candidate receiving the fifth highest number of votes for selectmen in the November 2013 election shall expire at the annual town election in April 2014; the terms of the candidates receiving the fourth and third highest number of votes in the November 2013 election shall expire at the annual town election in April 2015; and the terms of the candidates receiving the second highest and highest number of votes in the November 2013 election shall expire at the annual town election in April 2016.

SECTION 9. Section 5 shall apply to the election of school committee members beginning in April 2014. The term of the candidate receiving the fifth highest number of votes for school committee in the November 2013 election shall expire at the annual town election in April 2014; the terms of the candidates receiving the fourth and third highest number of votes in the November 2013 election shall expire at the annual town election in April 2015; and the terms of the candidates receiving the second highest and highest number of votes in the November 2013 election shall expire at the annual town election in April 2016.

SECTION 10. The terms of the candidates receiving the fourth and third highest number of votes for the housing authority that are scheduled to expire in November 2013, shall expire instead at the town election held in April 2014; and the terms of the candidates receiving the second highest and highest number of votes for the housing authority that are scheduled to expire in November 2013, shall expire instead at the town election held in April 2015.

SECTION 11. This act shall be submitted for acceptance by the voters of the town of Saugus at an annual town election held following its approval in the form of the following question, which shall be placed on the official ballot to be used at the election: "Shall an act entitled 'AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STAGGERED ELECTIONS OF SELECTMEN AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ESTABLISHING ANNUAL TOWN ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF SAUGUS' be accepted?" A summary prepared by the town counsel noting in summary form the major changes proposed in this act shall appear on the ballot. If a majority of the votes cast in answer to this question are in the affirmative, this act shall take effect, but not otherwise.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect upon its passage.