

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. **744** Session of
1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. SCOTT, MARCH 4, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS,
MARCH 4, 1919.

AN ACT

Making unlawful participation in political activities by policemen firemen and officers members or employes of any department or bureau in charge of police or fire protection in cities of the first class to forbid the contribution by such policemen firemen officers members or employes of funds to be used for political purposes and the receiving or collecting of such funds from or solicitation of such persons to contribute thereto and fixing the penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*
3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That*
4 *it is hereby declared to be unlawful for any policeman*
5 *fireman or officer member or employe of any bureau of*
6 *police or fire protection in any city of the first class*
7 *in this Commonwealth to*

8 (a) *Be a member of or delegate or alternate to any*

1 political convention or to be present at any such con-
2 vention except in the performance of his official duty

3 (b) Serve as a member of or attend the meetings
4 of any committee of any political party or take any
5 active part in political management or in the political
6 campaigns or in the canvassing of political precincts

7 (c) Use his office or the authority or power thereof
8 to influence political movements or to influence the poli-
9 tical action of any other such policeman fireman officer
10 member or employe

11 (d) In any way or manner interfere with the conduct
12 of any election or with the preparation therefor at the
13 polling place or with the election officers while counting
14 the vote or returning the ballot boxes books and papers
15 to the place provided by law for that purpose

16 (e) Be within any polling place or within fifty feet
17 thereof during the period of time beginning one hour pre-
18 ceding the opening of the ballots for holding such elec-
19 tion and ending with the time when the election officers
20 shall have finished counting the votes and have left the
21 polling places for the purpose of depositing the ballot
22 boxes and papers in the place provided by law for that
23 purpose excepting only that police officers may temporarily
24 approach or enter the polling place in order to make
25 any arrest permitted by law or for the purpose of ~~MA~~
26 serving order and in such case only long enough to ac-
27 complish the duties aforesaid after which the said police
28 officers shall at once withdraw and excepting further that
29 any such policeman firemen officer member or employe shall

1 have the right to enter the polling place for the pur-
2 pose of marking and depositing his ballot as speedily as
3 it reasonably can be done and may be within fifty feet
4 of a polling place for the purpose of ordinary travel or
5 residence

6 (f) Solicit pay or receive any money either for himself
7 or any political committee or candidate to be used for
8 political purposes or to authorize any person directly or
9 indirectly to solicit or to pay any such contribution

10 Section 2 It shall be unlawful for any person whom-
11 soever directly or indirectly to solicit either orally in
12 writing or by printing or to receive collect or accept
13 from any policeman fireman officer member or employe of
14 any bureau of police or fire protection in cities of the
15 first class any assessment subscription or contribution volun-
16 tary or involuntary or any money or other article or
17 thing of value of any kind intended for use in any
18 election campaign or for any political purpose whatever

19 Section 3 It shall be unlawful for any officer or
20 other employe of any bureau of police or fire protection
21 of any city of the first class having under his official
22 control direction or command policemen or firemen or other
23 officers members or employes connected with either the bu-
24 reau of police or the bureau of fire protection of such
25 city in order direct or knowingly permit a policeman fire-
26 man or other such officer member or employe or any of
27 them so under his power command or control to be en-
28 gaged in any political activities whatsoever or to do or
29 commit any act or thing bearing thereon except as above

1 provided or to direct or detail for duty any policeman
2 fireman or other such employe for the purpose or with
3 the view or object of the said policeman fireman or other
4 officer member or employe directly or indirectly aiding or
5 being concerned in political activities of any kind or of
6 assisting or being a party to the furtherance of the suc-
7 cess or defeat at any primary or other election of any
8 political party or of any candidate for office or in any
9 manner whatsoever taking part in any campaign canvass or
10 candidacy for public office or in promoting hindering or
11 otherwise influencing or attempting to promote hinder or
12 influence any such campaign canvass candidacy or election

13 Section 4 Any such policeman fireman officer member
14 or employe of any bureau having charge of police or
15 fire protection in such cities or any other person who
16 shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be
17 guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall
18 be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than one thou-
19 sand dollars and to undergo an imprisonment in the jail
20 of the proper county of not more than two years or
21 either or both at the discretion of the court and in
22 addition to said fine and imprisonment such officer mem-
23 ber or employe shall upon such conviction forfeit his of-
24 fice or position and shall during the period of five years
25 after such conviction be disqualified from holding any pub-
26 lic office or public position of honor trust or profit
27 within the limits of this Commonwealth

1 Section 5 All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with
2 the provisions hereof to the extent that they may be
3 so inconsistent are hereby repealed

2—H P 744