

accoutrements that a company of artillery may be entitled to under existing laws.

WILLIAM F. PACKER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WM. WILLIAMSON,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The sixth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

FRS. R. SHUNK.

No. 98.

AN ACT

For the better regulation of the fire department in the city and incorporated districts of the county of Philadelphia.

SECTION 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 from and after the passage of this act, if any fire company, the members thereof, or its adherents, shall be guilty of rioting or fighting in the public streets of the city or incorporated districts of the county of Philadelphia, while going to, at or returning from a fire, or to or from a false alarm, it shall be the duty of the court of quarter sessions of the said county, upon complaint made to them thereof, by any of the citizens, supported by affidavit, if they or a majority of the judges shall consider the complaint well founded, to declare such company out of service, and unlawful for the members thereof to act as a fire company for the space of six months, and to order their doors to be closed; and if after the expiration of that term, they shall again be guilty of rioting or fighting as aforesaid, within the same year, it shall be the duty of the said court, upon a similar complaint of two citizens, to disband said company and declare it unlawful for them, at any time thereafter, to appear in the public streets as a fire company.

Rioting and fighting punished.

Formation of fire companies regulated.

SECTION 2. When any persons shall be desirous of associating themselves together, or forming any company in the city or any of the incorporated districts of the county of Philadelphia, for the purpose of extinguishing fires, they shall prepare an instrument in writing, setting forth the name under which they intend to associate, the location they propose to occupy, the number of persons associating, with the names, ages and places of residence, and describing the kind of apparatus they design to use, with a statement of its value and the amount of their funds, accompanied with an application for permission to form themselves into a company, and the same to exhibit and present to the court; and the said court shall proceed to examine the said instrument, and if they shall see no objection thereto, they shall cause notice of the said application to be published in two daily papers, once a week for four weeks, in said city, and if no valid objection shall be made within that

Duty of court.

time to the formation of the said company, by any of the citizens, the said court shall, if they deem it necessary, authorize and allow the said company to be formed; and any persons forming a company in any other manner than is herein provided for, shall be punished as is hereinafter provided for; and every company now formed, or that may hereafter be formed in said city or districts, shall annually, on or before the second Tuesday in January, or before they shall receive any appropriation from said city or districts, lay before the councils or commissioners a statement of the number of its members, with their names, Annual statement. ages and places of residence, together with a statement of the number of times, in each month, that such company was called out by fire or false alarm, and the number of members at each fire, and any other information the officers of such company may deem useful or necessary.

SECTION 3. No fire company now formed, or hereafter to be formed, within said city or incorporated districts, shall erect or use any stationary alarm bell; the said city and incorporated districts shall each procure, and have at least one large bell, to be rung in time of fire by a person duly appointed by the respective corporations of said city and districts. Company not to use an alarm bell.

SECTION 4. That from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful for minors to be elected to any fire engine or hose company located within the city or incorporated districts of the county of Philadelphia; and any fire engine or hose company, located as before mentioned, who shall allow their apparatus to be dragged through the public streets by minors, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon complaint being made thereof, and sustained as provided for in the first section of this act, to the said court, the court shall thereupon make its decree, close the doors, and declare such company out of service for the period of one month, or more, at the discretion of said court. Minors prohibited from being members.

SECTION 5. Any person or persons who shall wilfully and maliciously deface, injure or destroy any estate or apparatus of any fire company in said city and districts, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and being thereof convicted, shall be sentenced to undergo an imprisonment at hard labor for a term not less than six months, or more than one year, and shall give security for future good behavior in such sum and for such time, according to the nature and enormity of the offence, as the court before whom such conviction shall take place, may fix; and any person or persons who shall otherwise offend against the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and being thereof convicted, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars, for the use of the county of Philadelphia, or imprisoned not exceeding one year, or both, at the discretion of the court, and may be held to bail for future good behavior. Injury to apparatus punished.

SECTION 6. The councils and commissioners above named, respectively, shall take proper means to ascertain the number of alarms and fires, and the value of property destroyed in each year, and the cause, or probable cause of each and every fire in said city and districts; and in case of any fires being caused by incendiaries, may offer and pay from the funds of the city or districts, such reward for the detection, as will secure the apprehension and conviction of the incendiary. Duties of commissioners and councils.

WILLIAM F. PACKER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WM. WILLIAMSON,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The seventh day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

FRS. R. SHUNK.