

No. 51

AN ACT

Relating to volunteer fire companies; prohibiting any municipality from replacing a volunteer fire company by a paid fire company unless a majority of the electors of the municipality voting are in favor of the change; and providing for referendum to ascertain the will of the electors.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. As used in this act "municipality" means any city, borough, town or township. Definition of "municipality."

Section 2. No municipality shall replace any volunteer fire company serving the municipality with a paid fire company unless a majority of the voters in the municipality have first voted in favor of the change. Referendum requirement.

Section 3. Any municipality desirous of replacing its volunteer fire company with a paid fire company shall file a petition with the county board of elections of the county for a referendum on the question of replacing the volunteer fire company with a paid fire company. The county board of elections shall cause a question to be placed on the ballots, or on the voting machine labels, and submitted at the municipal primary occurring at least sixty (60) days thereafter. The proceedings shall be in the manner and subject to the provisions of the election laws of this Commonwealth relating thereto. Procedure for referendum.

The question shall be in the following form:

Do you favor the replacing of the volunteer fire company by a paid fire company in the of ?

Section 4. If a majority of the electors voting on the question, vote "yes," then the municipality shall replace the volunteer fire company with a paid fire company, but if less than a majority of the electors voting on the question, vote "yes," the municipality shall not replace its volunteer fire company with a paid fire company, unless and until, at a later election, a majority of the electors *vote "yes" on the question. Requirement of majority to replace voluntary fire company with a paid fire company.

Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately. Act effective immediately.

* "voting" in original.

APPROVED—The 13th day of June, A. D. 1955.

GEORGE M. LEADER