

No. 146.

AN ACT

To amend part of section thirteen of an act, approved the tenth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen (Pamphlet Laws, eight hundred and fifty-seven), entitled "An act to provide for the personal registration of electors as a condition of their right to vote at elections, and their enrollment as members of political parties as a further condition of their right to vote at primaries, in cities of the first class of this Commonwealth, by removing from office all existing registration commissioners and their appointees in said cities, and authorizing the Governor to appoint registration commissions therein; defining the jurisdiction of said commissions, and the powers and duties of the commissioners constituting same, and of their appointees, including registrars, inspectors of registration, clerks, and counsel; fixing their qualifications, terms of office, and compensation; granting them certain immunity from arrest on registration days; and empowering such inspectors to arrest without warrant certain persons committing certain offenses in violation of this act in their presence, as well as to enter and inspect buildings given as residences of electors to interrogate the inmates thereof, to copy or demand a list of the lodgers therein, and to supervise the conduct of registrars; regulating the registration of electors at polling places by registrars, and at the offices of commissions by commissioners, and the right of parties or bodies of electors to have watchers thereat, and the preparation and use of street lists and other records of those registered; allowing the names of persons not entitled to vote to be struck from the registers in certain cases; permitting all records regarding registration to be inspected and copied by any elector under certain conditions; directing how the registers shall be used at elections and primaries; compelling the attendance of witnesses and payment of witness fees; and providing penalties for refusal to obey subpoenas; directing receivers of taxes to appoint chief clerks of commissions as deputies to collect poll taxes and to give receipts therefor; authorizing such clerks to administer oaths, sign subpoenas and vouchers, and to collect and disburse witness fees; prescribing a method for challenging persons applying for registration, and the procedure for the correction of registers, and for appealing from actions of registrars to said commissions; and allowing for appeals from the decisions of the commissions in certain cases to courts of common pleas; imposing certain duties upon election officers and upon the councils, treasurers, controllers, receivers of taxes, police officers, and other officials of said cities and upon the courts, judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, commissioners, peace officers, and other officials of the judicial districts and counties in which said cities are situated or with which they are coextensive; legalizing certain acts required hereby if done on any Sunday or legal holiday; requiring said cities to provide for the maintenance of said commissions, and the compensation of their appointees, and the payment of all expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and to transfer the unexpended balances of all appropriations heretofore made for the personal registration of electors of said cities during the year one thousand nine hundred and nineteen to and for the use of the said commissions; punishing and fixing penalties for violations hereof; and repealing all legislation inconsistent herewith."

Cities of the first class.

Registration of electors.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That such part of section thirteen of an act, approved the tenth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen (Pamphlet Laws, eight hundred fifty-seven), entitled "An act to provide for the personal registration of electors as a condition of their right to vote at elections, and their enrollment as members of political parties as a fur-

ther condition of their right to vote at primaries, in cities of the first class of this Commonwealth, by removing from office all existing registration commissioners and their appointees in said cities, and authorizing the Governor to appoint registration commissions therein; defining the jurisdiction of said commissions, and the powers and duties of the commissioners constituting same, and of their appointees, including registrars, inspectors of registration, clerks, and counsel; fixing their qualifications, terms of office, and compensation; granting them certain immunity from arrest on registration days, and empowering such inspectors to arrest without warrant certain persons committing certain offenses in violation of this act in their presence, as well as to enter and inspect buildings given as residences of electors to interrogate the inmates thereof, to copy or demand a list of the lodgers therein, and to supervise the conduct of registrars; regulating the registration of electors at polling places by registrars, and at the offices of commissions by commissioners, and the right of parties or bodies of electors to have watchers thereat, and the preparation and use of street lists and other records of those registered; allowing the names of persons not entitled to vote to be struck from the registers in certain cases; permitting all records regarding registration to be inspected and copied by any elector under certain conditions; directing how the registers shall be used at elections and primaries; compelling the attendance of witnesses and payment of witness fees; and providing penalties for refusal to obey subpoenas; directing receivers of taxes to appoint chief clerks of commissions as deputies to collect poll taxes and to give receipts therefor; authorizing such clerks to administer oaths, sign subpoenas and vouchers, and to collect and disburse witness fees; prescribing a method for challenging persons applying for registration, and the procedure for the correction of registers, and for appealing from actions of registrars to said commissions; and allowing for appeals from the decisions of the commissions in certain cases to courts of common pleas; imposing certain duties upon election officers, and upon the councils, treasurers, controllers, receivers of taxes, police officers, and other officials of said cities and upon the courts, judges, prothonotaries, sheriffs, commissioners, peace officers, and other officials of the judicial districts and counties in which said cities are situated or with which they are coextensive; legalizing certain acts required hereby if done on any Sunday or legal holiday; requiring said cities to provide for the maintenance of said commissions, and the compensation of their appointees, and the payment of all expenses necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and to transfer the un-

expended balances of all appropriations heretofore made for the personal registration of electors of said cities during the year one thousand nine hundred and nineteen to and for the use of the said commissions; punishing and fixing penalties for violations hereof; and repealing all legislation inconsistent herewith," which reads as follows:—

Section 13, act of July 10, 1919 (P. L. 857), cited for amendment.

"Section 13. Every person claiming the right to vote must appear in person before the registrars in the district in which he lives or before the commissioners, on one of the days prescribed by law, and answer the questions put him by them.

"The answers must be recorded on a single line in two registers, which shall have the following form," is hereby amended to read as follows:—

Application in person.

Section 13. Every person claiming the right to vote must appear in person before the registrars in the district in which he lives or before the commissioners, on one of the days prescribed by law, and answer the questions put to him by them:

Examination.

Proviso.

Provided, however, That the registration commissioners shall, at each fall registration preceding the November election, furnish, to the registrars of the several wards and precincts, the registers of the proper ward or precinct for the previous year. Every person appearing before the registrars, who was registered in said district for the previous year, and who still resides at the same residence within said district as in the previous year, shall, after being sworn, upon the production of a proper tax receipt and the making of a statement that he was registered in said election district the year immediately preceding, that he resides in the same residence as during the year immediately preceding, and naming the political party, if any, to which he belongs, be again registered by the registrars, without answering the additional questions. In all such cases the registrars shall, at any time during the day, complete the registration of such person from the registers of the preceding year, making due allowance for the elapsing of one year. The answers must be recorded on a single line in two registers, which shall have the following form:

Person registered for the previous year.

Recordation of answers.

APPROVED--The 26th day of April, A. D. 1921.

WM. C. SPROUL.