

exceptions are filed to any such sale in the office of the prothonotary within ninety days from the date of such sale, a decree of absolute confirmation shall be entered, as of course, by the prothonotary. Any objections or exceptions to such a sale may raise the legality of the taxes for nonpayment of which the real estate was sold or the return thereof, or the validity of the sale for the reason that the tax was actually paid, or question the regularity or legality of the proceedings of the treasurer in any respect. In case any objections or exceptions are filed, they shall be disposed of according to the practice of the court, and, when the same are overruled or set aside, a decree of absolute confirmation shall be entered by the court. If such objections or exceptions are sustained and the court deems the defect not amendable, it shall, by its order or decree, invalidate the sale. From the decisions of the court of common pleas any party affected may appeal to the Supreme or Superior Court as in other cases. If no objections or exceptions are filed as herein *provided, or if such objections or exceptions are finally overruled and the sale confirmed absolutely*, the validity of the assessment of the tax and the validity of the proceedings of the treasurer, with respect to such sale, shall not thereafter be inquired into judicially in equity or by civil proceedings by the person or persons in whose name such property was sold, his, her or their heirs, or his, her or their grantees or assigns, subsequent to the date of the assessment of the taxes for which such sale was made, and such sale, after the period of redemption shall be terminated, shall be deemed to pass a good and valid title to the purchaser as against the person or persons in whose name such property was sold, provided the purchaser has filed the bond for surplus moneys as hereinafter provided.

APPROVED—The 14th day of May, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 166

AN ACT

To amend article three of the act, approved the seventh day of March, one thousand nine hundred and one (Pamphlet Laws, twenty), entitled "An act for the government of cities of the second class," as amended, removing the authority of the Superintendent of Police to appoint additional patrolmen at the expense of persons asking such appointment.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That article three of the act, approved the seventh day of March, one thousand nine hundred and one (Pamphlet Laws, twenty), entitled "An act for the government of cities of the second class," as amended by the acts, approved the

twentieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and one (Pamphlet Laws, five hundred eighty-six), and the twenty-sixth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand three hundred sixty), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE III

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety.

Section 1. The department of public safety shall be under the charge of one director, who shall be the head thereof. The care, management, administration and supervision of the police affairs, and all matters relating to the public health, to the fire and police force, fire alarm telegraph, erection of fire-escapes, and the inspection of buildings and boilers, markets and food sold therein, and the construction, protection and repair of buildings erected for police and fire purposes, shall be in charge of this department.

Jurisdiction of department of public safety.

Qualifications of employes.

No person shall be employed in this department as a policeman or fireman who is not a citizen of the United States, or who has been convicted of crime, unless pardoned, or who cannot read and write understandingly in the English language, or who shall not have resided within the State at least one year preceding his appointment.

[The Superintendent of Police, whenever directed by the Department, shall appoint and cause to be sworn in any number of additional patrolmen, to do duty at any place in the city designated by, and at the charge and expense of, the person or persons who may ask for such appointment. They shall be subject to and obey the orders, rules and regulations of the department, and conform to the general discipline and special regulations thereof.]

The city recorder may, upon any emergency or apprehension of riot or mob, take command of the police force, and appoint as many special patrolmen as he may deem advisable. During their service the special appointees shall possess the powers and perform the duties of regular employes of the department, and shall receive such compensation as shall be authorized by the city recorder, not exceeding that of the regular officers of the force performing corresponding duties.]

Officers and members shall wear uniforms.

Misdemeanor to falsely personate an officer.

Penalty.

The department shall make suitable regulations, under which the officers and members of the fire, telegraph and police force shall be required to wear an appropriate uniform. It shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding five hundred (\$500) dollars and imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months, or either or both, in the discretion of the court, for any person to falsely personate by uniform, insignia or otherwise any officer or member of the department.

The city councils may provide by ordinance a fund for the care, maintenance, and relief of aged, retired, disabled, or injured policemen or firemen, and the families of such as may be injured or killed in the service.

Pension fund to be established.

No policeman or fireman appointed under this act shall be dismissed without his written consent, except by the decision of a court either of trial or inquiry, duly determined and certified in writing to the city recorder, which court shall be composed of persons belonging to the police or fire force, equal or superior in official position therein to the accused. Such decision shall only be determined by trial of charges, with plain specifications made by or lodged with the director of the department of public safety, of which trial the accused shall have due notice, and at which he shall have the right to be present in person. The persons composing such court shall be appointed and sworn by the director of the department of public safety to perform their duties impartially and without fear or favor; and the person of highest rank in such court shall have the same authority to issue and enforce process to secure the attendance of witnesses, and to administer oaths to witnesses, as is possessed by any justice of the peace of this Commonwealth.

Dismissal of policemen and firemen regulated.

Accused to have notice.

Such charges may be of disability for service, in which case the court shall be one of inquiry, whose decision may be for the honorable discharge from the service of the person concerned; or, of neglect or violation of law or duty, inefficiency, intemperance, disobedience of orders, or unbecoming official or personal conduct, in which cases the court shall be one of trial, and its decision may authorize the director of the department of public safety to impose fines and pecuniary penalties, to be stopped from pay, or to suspend from pay or duty, or both, for a period fixed by them, not exceeding one year, or to dismiss from the service.

Charges.
Court of inquiry.

Court of trial.

Fines and pecuniary penalties.

It shall be lawful for the director of the department of public safety, at his discretion, to suspend from duty before trial any person, charged as aforesaid, until such trial can be had, with or without pay as such court shall afterward determine, but no trial shall be delayed for more than one month after charge has been made.

Director may suspend any person under charges.

The finding of the court of trial or inquiry, as aforesaid, shall be of no effect until approved by the city recorder.

Findings of courts to be approved by city recorder.

The laws in relation to health, buildings and building inspection, remain unaffected by any of the provisions thereof, and the board of health and the building inspectors shall remain as heretofore, and shall be attached to the Department of Public Safety.

Board of health to be attached to department of public safety.

APPROVED—The 14th day of May, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE