

SECTION 1. The second paragraph of section 1 of chapter 234 of the General Laws, as appearing in chapter 148 of the acts of 1969, is hereby amended by striking out, in lines 22 to 24, inclusive, the words "mothers of children under sixteen years of age or women having custody of such children and women".

SECTION 2. Said section 1 of said chapter 234 is hereby further amended by adding the following paragraph: —

A parent or person having custody of and being responsible for the daily supervision of a child under fifteen years of age may elect not to have his name placed on the list of jurors and in such event he shall be treated as a person exempt from jury duty under this section.

Approved August 3, 1973.

Chap. 583. AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The area in Middlesex and Worcester Counties including the city of Marlborough, hereinafter called the city, and the towns of Acton, Ashland, Ayer, Berlin, Billerica, Bolton, Boxborough, Boylston, Carlisle, Chelmsford, Clinton, Grafton, Groton, Harvard, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lancaster, Littleton, Milford, Northborough, Sherborn, Shirley, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Stow, Tewksbury, Upton, Westborough and Westford, is hereby constituted a mosquito control project under section five A of chapter two hundred and fifty-two of the General Laws to the same extent as if so constituted by the state reclamation board acting under said section five A and the improvements herein authorized shall be undertaken under the identifying name of the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, hereinafter called the project.

There shall be a commission as provided under said section five A of chapter two hundred and fifty-two which shall consist of five members. Of the members first appointed hereunder, one shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, one for a term of three years, one for a term of four years and one for a term of five years, and each shall serve until the qualification of their respective successors. Upon the expiration of the term of any member, his successor shall be appointed in like manner for a term of five years. The commission shall elect its own chairman and clerk and shall keep accurate records of its meetings.

SECTION 2. Beginning with the fiscal year commencing July first, nineteen hundred and seventy-three, to meet the expenses incurred under this act, there shall be annually expended from the state treasury, subject to appropriation, sums equal in the aggregate, to eight cents on each one thousand dollars of equalized valuations of the city and the aforementioned towns, as most recently reported by the tax commission to the general court under the provisions of section ten C of chapter fifty-eight of the General

Laws; and the state treasurer shall issue his warrant requiring the assessors of the city and said towns to assess a tax to the amount of the sums so expended, one quarter of which shall be in proportion to their said valuations and three quarters shall be in proportion to their respective areas, and such amounts shall be collected and paid to the state treasurer as provided in section twenty of chapter fifty-nine of the General Laws; provided, that the city and any such town may in any year anticipate in whole or in part its assessment, and appropriate, raise and deposit the amount thereof with the state treasurer, and any sum so deposited shall be credited against such assessment. There may also be expended for the purposes of this act voluntary contributions for such purposes deposited in the state treasury.

SECTION 3. The funds appropriated and deposited as aforesaid shall be expended by the project for the investigation, construction and maintenance of mosquito control works in the project, under the direction and supervision of the state reclamation board in accordance with such known methods as in its opinion will effect the greatest measure of relief.

SECTION 4. The city, by vote of the city council, with the approval of the mayor, or any town by a majority vote of the voters at an annual town meeting, may, after this act has been in effect therein for a period of one year, withdraw from membership in the project hereinbefore established and thereupon the provisions of this act shall no longer apply to such city or town.

Approved August 3, 1973.

Chap. 584. AN ACT TO ASCERTAIN THE WILL OF THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD RELATIVE TO THE MERGER OF THE BERKSHIRE MEDICAL CENTER AND HILLCREST HOSPITAL.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

In order to ascertain the will of the voters of the city of Pittsfield, there shall be placed upon the ballot to be used at the regular election in the current year in said city the following question: "Shall Berkshire Medical Center and Hillcrest Hospital merge as one hospital?"

If the majority of the votes in answer to said question is in the affirmative, it shall be deemed and taken to be the will of the voters of said city that such merger be carried out, and, if a majority of said votes is in the negative, it shall be deemed and taken to be the will of said voters that such merger not be carried out.

Approved August 3, 1973.

Chap. 585. AN ACT INCREASING THE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT COURTS.