

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 10, 1897.

No. 247, S.]

[Published March 11, 1897.

CHAPTER 31.

AN ACT authorizing the common council of cities to change the number and boundaries of wards by ordinances.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The council of any city of the third or fourth classes, incorporated under special charter, may change the number and boundaries of the wards in such city by ordinance adopted by a vote of at least three-fourths of its members; provided, that such ordinance shall be introduced at a regular meeting of such council, and before final action is taken thereon shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks in the official paper, if any, and if not, in some newspaper published in such city, if there be one, otherwise in some newspaper to be designated by the council; and when the boundaries and number of wards are fixed by an ordinance under this section the number of wards in such city and the boundaries thereof, or of any of said wards, shall not again be changed for a period of three years, except by adding thereto such territory as may at any time be added to the city, and provided further, that the territory of the wards shall be contiguous and

Publication of notice required for change of ward and boundaries.

compact, and that no new ward shall be so created that shall contain less than one thousand inhabitants.

Number of
inhabitants
necessary in
order to divide
a ward.

SECTION 2. Whenever a majority of the electors, at least forty per centum of whom shall be resident freeholders, of any election district in any city within the preceding section, where the ward has been divided into two or more election districts, and which contains one thousand inhabitants or more, or of any ward which contains a population of two thousand five hundred or more and which has not been so divided, shall file a petition with the city clerk demanding that such precinct be constituted a ward, or that such ward be divided, such clerk shall immediately notify the mayor of the receipt thereof, and the mayor shall thereupon cause to be published in the official paper, if there be one, or if not, in some newspaper published in the city, notice of the receipt of such petition, and cause the same to be laid before the council at the next regular meeting thereof, and such council shall thereupon proceed by ordinance to create such district and any other district or districts in such ward or wards, or to divide such ward into wards; provided, that the council may, by a vote of at least three-fourths of its members, change the boundaries of such district or of such proposed ward. The petition required by this section for the establishment of a ward out of an election district, shall set forth that such district contains one thousand inhabitants or more, and if it is for the division of a ward containing two thousand five hundred inhabitants or more, the fact as to the number of inhabitants shall be stated, and if such ward has not been divided into election districts, a particular description of the territory out of which it is proposed to create the new ward shall be given. Each elector signing either such petition, shall sign and acknowledge his signature in the presence of a notary public or justice of the peace who shall certify to the fact. The question of whether

the required number of electors have signed such petition shall be determined by the number of votes cast in such precinct or ward at the last annual city election, or if such ward has been divided into election districts or the boundaries of the election districts thereof changed since such election, by the last poll list thereof.

SECTION 3. Whenever the number of wards in any city shall be changed in the manner aforesaid, and a new ward or wards created, such ward or wards shall have the same number of aldermen, supervisors and ward officers as other wards in such city, and shall be in all respects subject to the provisions of the charter. Any ward officer holding office and who resided in any such territory at the time it shall be declared a ward, shall continue in office until his successor is qualified, and shall be an officer of the ward so constituted. The inspectors, election and ballot clerks appointed for any such district shall continue to act in their several capacities when said district is constituted a ward until removed or their successors are appointed. In all other cases where a new ward is so created and the creation of it shall cause vacancies in the offices to which it is entitled, the council shall forthwith order, in the manner provided by the charter, a special election to fill such vacancies, and any others existing by reason of the formation of such ward; provided, that if such ward is created within thirty days before any general or the annual city election, such vacancies shall be filled thereat. The council shall, in ordering such election, fix the term for which officers shall be elected.

SECTION 4. Any petition which has been heretofore made, or filed for the creation of a ward out of any precinct or election district, shall be of the same force and effect as if made under the provisions of this act. Any ordinance or resolution of any common council creating any ward pursuant to any petition

New wards to have the same number of aldermen, supervisors and ward officers as the old wards.

Petitions already filed valid.

for the creation of a ward out of any precinct or election district, whether such precinct existed prior to the passage and publication of chapter 286, of the laws of 1895, or was thereafter established, is hereby made valid to all intents and purposes, any insufficiency or informality in any such petition or any want of power under said chapter 286, to the contrary notwithstanding.

SECTION 5. All acts and parts of acts and the provisions of any city charter that conflict with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 11, 1897.

No. 120, S.]

[Published March 11, 1897.

CHAPTER 32.

AN ACT authorizing cities to acquire lands outside the city limits for certain purposes, and to create park commissioners and prescribe their powers and duties.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Common council authorized to establish a board of park commissioners.

SECTION 1. The common council shall have authority to establish a board of park commissioners, and upon a majority vote of the members elect, to receive by gift, or to purchase, for the use of the city, lands for parks, boulevards, pleasure drives, cemeteries, drainage, sewerage, or garbage grounds, within, or outside of the city limits, and may exercise police supervision over the same. The city shall also