

THE FREE LIBRARIES ACT.

Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1887—Chap. 189. An Act to provide for the establishment of Free Libraries.

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows :

1. This Act may be cited as the Free Libraries Act.

2. (1) A free library may be established in any city, town or incorporated village, in manner hereinafter provided.

(2) Where a free library is so established there may, without any proceedings for the purpose under this Act, be connected with the library, a free news-room, or museum, or both : and there may be established a branch library, or branch libraries, and a branch news-room or branch news-rooms, in the municipality.

(3) In case a petition is presented to the council of a city, town or incorporated village, signed by not less than one hundred electors in the case of a city, or not less than sixty in the case of a town, or not less than thirty in the case of an incorporated village, praying for the establishment of a free library under this Act, the council may pass a by-law giving effect to the petition, with the assent of the electors qualified to vote at municipal elections given before the final passing of the by-law as provided by the municipal law.

(4) A by-law under this Act, which has been so assented to by the electors, may be passed at the first or any meeting of the municipal council thereafter, without waiting for the expiration of fourteen days or any other time, unless a petition for a scrutiny has been presented in the meantime as provided by section 328 of the Municipal Act.

(5) After a by-law has been assented to, it shall be the duty of the council for the time being to pass the same without unnecessary delay, whether such council is, or is not, the same council which submitted the by-law to the electors.

(6) In case the vote of the electors is adverse to the by-law, no new by-law for the same purpose shall afterwards be passed by the council, to be submitted to the electors within the same municipal year.

3. (1) In case of the establishment of a free library under this Act, the general management, regulation and control of the library, and of the news-room and museum (if any) shall be vested in and exercised by a board to be called the board of management : which board shall be a body politic and corporate, and shall be composed of the Mayor of the city or town, or the reeve of the village, and three other persons to be appointed by the council, three by the public school board, or the board of education, of the municipality, and two by the trustees of the separate school, if any.

(2) No person who is a member of the body entitled to appoint shall be qualified to be a member of the board of management.

(3) Of the representatives appointed by the council and the public school board, or board of education, and separate school trustees, respectively, one shall retire annually, but may be reappointed.

(4) Of the three members first appointed by the council, and public school board, or board of education, respectively, one shall hold office until the first day of February after his appointment, one until the first day of February in the following year, and one until the same day in the year next thereafter ; and of the two members first appointed by the separate school trustees, one shall hold office until the first day of February after his appointment, and one until the first day of February of the following year : but every member of the board of management shall continue in office after the time named until his successor is appointed.

(5) In case of a vacancy by the death or resignation of a member, or for any cause other than the expiration of the time for which he was appointed, the member appointed in his place shall hold office for the remainder of his term.

(6) Subject to these provisions, each of the members appointed by the council, or public school board, or board of education, shall hold office for three years from the first day of February in the year in which he is appointed ; and each of the members appointed by the separate