

CHAPTER 88.

(House Bill 261)

AN ACT authorizing every municipal corporation in Prince George's County to remove or suspend from office any person holding office under such municipal corporation upon written charges and a hearing, and to summon witnesses, and to fill vacancies thus created.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That in addition to, but not in substitution of, the powers which have been, or may hereafter be, granted to the several municipal corporations in Prince George's County in their respective charters, the Mayor and Council, or other governing body, by whatsoever name known, shall have the power, by a majority vote, to remove or suspend from office any person who has been appointed to any municipal office in such incorporated town, for inefficiency, malfeasance, non-feasance, misconduct in office, or insubordination. Before removing any such person from office the charges shall be reduced to writing and a time set for hearing upon such charges before the governing body of such incorporated town, and a copy of the complaint and notice of the time when the charges will be inquired into and examined shall be delivered to the party complained against at least forty-eight hours before such hearing. They may summon before them any witnesses to testify for or against such complaint. Before the hearing on such charges begin the party complained against shall deliver to such governing body an answer in writing to every charge made against him, and shall have the right to be heard and to be represented by counsel. If the party complained against should fail to answer all of such charges in writing, or should fail to appear at the time and place stated in the notice, or at an adjournment thereof, or if such charges are sustained by a majority vote of the governing body of such incorporated town, then such governing body shall have the right to remove such person from office or to suspend him from office for such period of time as they may determine. In such case the governing body shall have the power to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term, or temporarily during the period of suspension from office.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1939.

Approved May 3, 1939.