

1914

c 242 Fire Guardians Act

Ontario

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CHAPTER 242.

An Act to authorize the Appointment of Fire Guardians.

HIS 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 Fire Guardians Act*. Short title, 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 1.

2.—(1) The council of a township may, on the petition of one-third of the ratepayers, at any meeting to be held before the 1st day of April in any year, appoint by by-law not less than two resident freeholders for each polling subdivision within the municipality to carry out the provisions of this Act. Appointment of fire guardians.

(2) The persons so appointed shall be called "Fire Guardians" and shall hold office until the first meeting of a new council elected after their appointment and until their successors are appointed. Tenure of office. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 2.

3. No person shall, after the passing of such by-law, set out fire, or set fire to any brush heap or other combustible material, in any field, clearance or place in such township where the same would be likely to spread, between the first day of July and the first day of October in any year, without having first obtained permission in writing from one of the fire guardians. Leave to be obtained before settling out fires. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 3.

4. Such permission shall not be pleaded or given in evidence in any action for negligently setting out fire, or in extenuation of so doing, or in mitigation of damages; but the absence of such permission shall be *prima facie* evidence of negligence. Leave not to be relied on in actions for negligence. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 4.

5. A fire guardian on being requested to grant permission to set out fire shall examine the place at which it is intended to set out the fire and the adjacent land and the timber, trees and other property thereon, and he shall refuse such request if, in his opinion, it would not be safe to set out the fire. Inspection by fire guardian before granting leave. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 5.

6. The council may, by the by-law, make provision for the payment to the fire guardians for their services and may fix a penalty to be imposed upon fire guardians refusing or Matters to be provided for in the by-law.

neglecting to perform their duties under this Act or the by-law. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 6.

Penalty.

7. Any person who contravenes the provisions of section 3 shall incur a penalty not exceeding \$100, recoverable on information of any resident ratepayer in the municipality before a police magistrate or two justices of the peace sitting together under *The Ontario Summary Convictions Act*. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 7.

Rev. Stat. c. 90.

Application of penalty.

8. The complainant shall be entitled to one moiety of the penalty and the other moiety shall be paid over to the treasurer of the municipality. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 8.

When Act not to apply.

9. This Act shall not apply to any portion of Ontario which under *The Fire Rangers Act*, chapter 267 of the Revised Statutes, 1897, or under *The Forests Fires Protection Act* has been declared a fire district. 2 Geo. V. c. 62, s. 9.

Rev. Stat. c. 241.