

CHAPTER 359 (HB 865)

AN ACT relating to city police and fire departments.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 90.360 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) No employee in the classified service of a city of the second or third class shall be dismissed, suspended or reduced in grade or pay for any reason except inefficiency, misconduct, insubordination or violation of law involving moral turpitude, or, in a city of the third class, violation of any rule adopted by the city legislative body or civil service commission.
- (2) Any person may prefer charges in writing against any employee by filing them with the mayor or other appointing authority who shall communicate the charges without delay to the civil service commission of the city. The charges must be signed by the person making them and must set out clearly each charge. The appointing authority shall, whenever probable cause appears, prefer charges against any employee whom he *or she* believes guilty of conduct justifying his *or her* removal. Upon the filing of charges the clerk of the civil service commission shall notify its members and serve a copy of the charges upon the accused employee with a statement of the date, place and hour at which the hearing of charges will begin, this hearing not to be held within three (3) days of the date of the service of charges upon the accused employee. The day on which the charges are served on the accused employee shall count as one (1) of the days of notice. The person accused may in writing waive the service of charges and demand trial within three (3) days after they have been filed with the clerk of the civil service commission.
- (3) Upon the hearing the charges shall be considered traversed and put in issue, and the trial shall be limited to the issues presented by the written charges.
- (4) The civil service commission shall have the power to summon and compel attendance of witnesses at all hearings by subpoena issued by the clerk of that body and served upon the witnesses by members of the police department of the city or any officer authorized to serve subpoenas. If any witness fails to appear in response to a summons or refuses to testify concerning any matter on which he may lawfully be interrogated, any District Judge, on application of the commission, may compel obedience by proceedings for contempt as in the case of disobedience of a subpoena issued from the District Court. The accused employee shall have the right to have subpoenaed any witnesses he *or she* may desire, upon furnishing their names to the clerk. As many as ten (10) subpoenas may be served on the request of the accused employee without charge but each additional subpoena requested by him shall be issued by the clerk and served by the police department only upon payment of fifty cents (\$0.50) to the city clerk by the employee. The action and decision of the civil service commission on the charges shall be reduced to writing and kept in a book for that purpose and the written charge shall be attached to the book containing the body's decision.
- (5) In cases where the head of the department or the appointing authority has probable cause to believe an employee has been guilty of conduct justifying his removal or punishment he shall immediately suspend that employee from duty or from both pay and duty pending trial and the employee shall not be placed on duty or allowed pay thereafter until the charges are heard by the civil service commission.

- (6) The civil service commission shall punish any employee found guilty by reprimand or a suspension for any length of time not to exceed six (6) months, or by reducing the grade, if the employee's classification warrants, or by combining any two (2) or more of these punishments, or by dismissal. No employee shall be reprimanded, removed, suspended or dismissed except as provided in this section.
- (7) *(a) Any of the following offices, positions, and places of employment, in the police and fire departments of a city of the second or third class, may be excluded from the classified service:*
- 1. Chief of police;*
 - 2. Assistant chief of police;*
 - 3. Chief of firefighters; and*
 - 4. Assistant chief of firefighters.*
- (b) Any classified employee in either department who shall accept an appointment and qualify as chief of police, assistant chief of police, chief of firefighters, or assistant chief of firefighters, shall be deemed to have received a leave of absence from the classified service for, and during the incumbency of, any of those respective positions. If an individual should cease to serve in any of those positions, there shall be restored to him or her the same classification and rank which he or she held prior to his or her appointment.*

SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 95 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Any city of the second or third class may elect to operate under KRS 90.310 to 90.410, and, by ordinance, create a civil service commission. Any classified employee in the police or fire department, who accepts an appointment and qualifies as chief of police, assistant chief of police, chief of firefighters, or assistant chief of firefighters, shall be deemed to have received a leave of absence from the classified service for, and during the incumbency of, any of those respective positions. If an individual should cease to serve in any of those positions, there shall be restored to him or her the same classification and rank which he or she held prior to his appointment.

Approved April 6, 2000