

Urban Renewal in Virginia Virginia's Residential Segregation Act, 1912 (page 1 of 3)

CHAP. 157.—An ACT to provide for designation by cities and towns of segregation districts for residence of white and colored persons; for the adoption of this act by such cities and towns, and for penalties for the violation of its terms.

Approved March 12, 1912.

Whereas, the preservation of the public morals, public health and public order, in the cities and towns of this commonwealth is endangered by the residence of white and colored people in close proximity to one another; therefore,

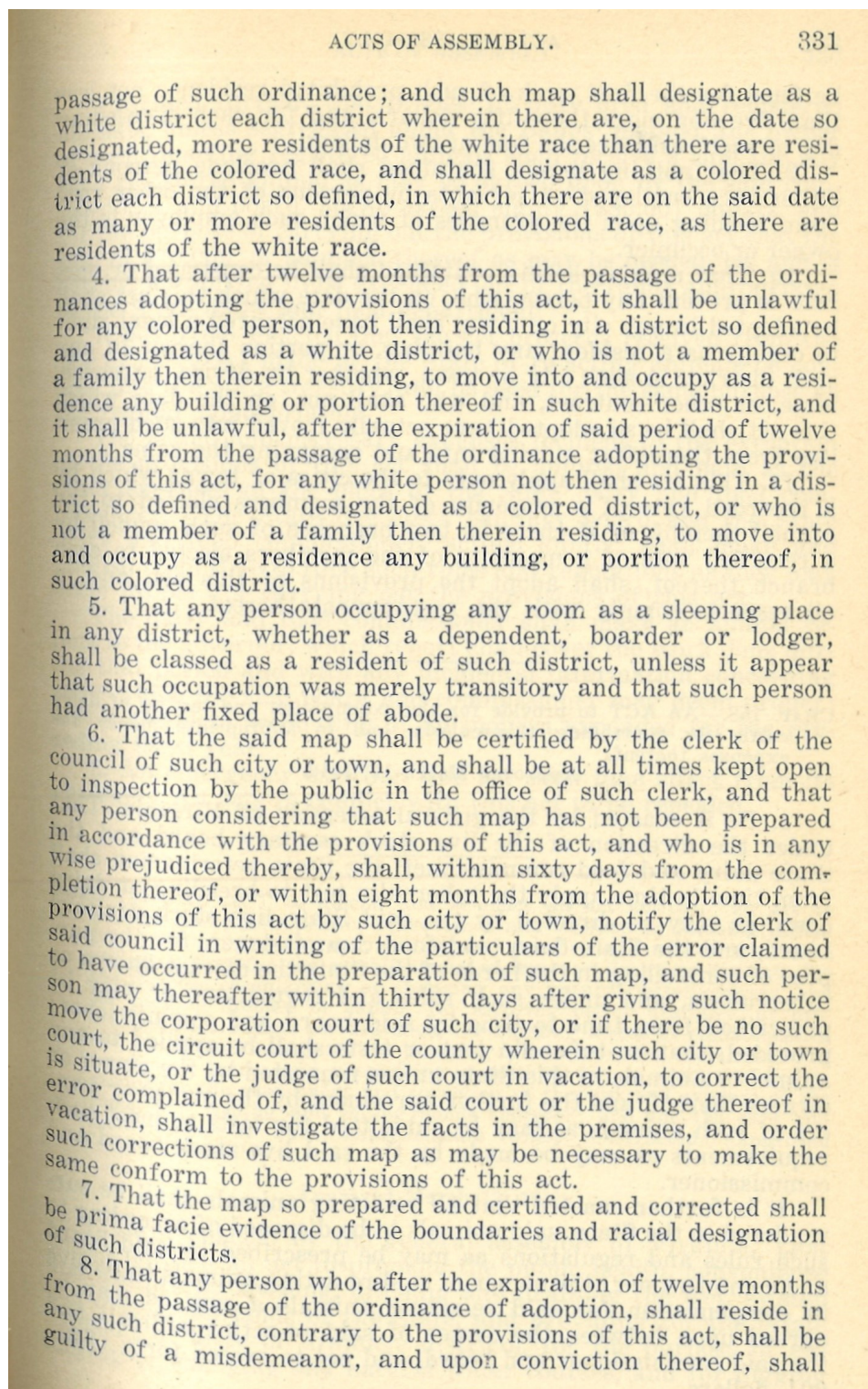
1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of Virginia, That in the cities and towns of this commonwealth where this act shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of section eleven hereof, the entire area within the respective corporate limits thereof shall, by ordinance, adopted by the council of each such city or town, be divided into districts, the boundaries whereof shall be plainly designated in such ordinance and which shall be known as "segregation districts."

2. That no such district shall comprise less than the entire property fronting on any street or alley, and lying between any two adjacent streets or alleys, or between any street and an alley next adjacent thereto.

3. That the council of each such city or town shall provide for, and have prepared, within six months after such council shall have adopted the provisions of this act, a map showing the boundaries of all such segregation districts, and showing the number of white persons and colored persons residing within such segregation district, on a date to be designated in such ordinance of adoption, but which shall be within sixty days of the

Citation: An Act to provide for designation by cities and towns of segregation districts, Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Virginia...1912 (1912), 330-332.

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be fined for the first week of such prohibited residence not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, and for each succeeding day of such residence the sum of two dollars.

9. That nothing herein contained shall preclude persons of either race employed as servants by persons of the other race from residing upon the premises of which such employer is the owner or occupier.

10. That nothing herein contained shall be construed or operate to prevent any person who, on the date which this act shall be adopted in any city or town, shall have acquired a legal right to occupy as a resident any building, or portion thereof in any such district, in such city or town, whether by devise, purchase, lease, or other contract, and who shall not, on the date which this act shall be so adopted have actually moved into such premises from thereafter moving into and occupying the same.

11. This act shall apply only to the cities or towns which by a recorded vote of a majority of the members elected to the council thereof, or if there be two branches of such council by a recorded vote of a majority of the members elected to each branch thereof, shall adopt the provisions of this act, and in all respects comply with the requirements hereof.

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