

inhabitants or of the trustees of any school district, or of the commissioners of primary schools, or of any other officer created under the provisions of this act, shall be set aside or adjudged to be void for defect of form, or for any irregularity therein, so as the requisitions of the said act are substantially complied with.

APPROVED, May 20, 1862.

CHAP. LXXVIII. — *An Act prescribing the Qualification of Electors in the Cities of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia.* May 20, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That in all municipal elections in the cities of Washington and Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, during the existence of the present rebellion, every person who shall offer to vote at any such election, and who shall be challenged by any legal voter on the ground of disloyalty to the government of the United States, shall, before his vote shall be received, in addition to the requirements now established by law, take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation, namely: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support, protect, and defend the Constitution and Government of the United States against all enemies, whether domestic or foreign; that I will bear true faith, allegiance, and loyalty to the same, any ordinance, resolution, or law of any State Convention, Legislature, or order or organization, secret or otherwise, to the contrary notwithstanding, and that I do this with a full determination, pledge, and purpose, without any mental reservation or evasion whatsoever; and, further, that I have always been loyal and true to the Government of the United States. So help me God." The said oath or affirmation may be taken before any justice of the peace, notary public, or other person legally authorized to administer oaths in the District of Columbia; and the production of the certificate, in writing, of any such justice of the peace, notary public, or other person so authorized to administer oaths, with a copy of such oath or affirmation, that said oath has been taken and subscribed to by the person producing such certificate, shall be deemed by the commissioners of election sufficient evidence of the fact. And it shall also be lawful for the commissioners of election, or any one of them, during the time of holding such elections, to administer said oath. And any person or persons violating said oath, or making any false statement in taking the same, shall be subject to all the pains and penalties of wilful and corrupt perjury, and shall be liable to be indicted and prosecuted to conviction before any court in said District of Columbia having competent jurisdiction thereof.

Persons offering to vote at municipal elections, in Washington and Georgetown, if challenged for disloyalty, shall take oath.

Form of oath.

Who may administer oath.

Proof.

Violation of oath, or false statement in taking, to be deemed perjury. Penalty.

APPROVED, May 20, 1862.

CHAP. LXXIX. — *An Act to provide for the Codification and Revision of the Laws of the District of Columbia.* May 20, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, three suitable persons, learned in the law, to revise and codify the laws of the District of Columbia.

Commission to revise, &c., the laws of the District of Columbia.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the persons who shall be thus appointed shall render a final report of their revision and codification to Congress on or before the first Monday of December next.

Final report. Post, pp. 532, 764.

APPROVED, May 20, 1862.

CHAP. LXXX. — *An Act to authorize the Appointment of Medical Store-keepers and Chaplains of Hospitals.* May 20, 1862.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of War