

**THE HOME RULE CITY ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 279 of 1909**

**117.20 Charter commission; first meeting; duties of city clerk; powers and duties of commission; roll call; vacancy; compensation; quorum; public sessions.**

Sec. 20. The charter commission shall convene on the second Tuesday after the election at the place designated pursuant to section 19. The city clerk shall preside at the first meeting, shall administer the oath of office to the members-elect, and shall act as clerk of the commission. The charter commission shall be the sole judge of the qualifications, elections, and returns of its members, shall choose its officers except clerk, shall determine the rules of its proceedings, and shall keep a journal. A roll call of the members on a question shall be entered on the journal at the request of 1/5 of the members or less if the commission shall so determine. The commission may fill a vacancy in its membership, and shall fix the time for the submission of the charter to the electors. A member shall not receive compensation for more than 90 meetings of the commission, and only for actual attendance. A member of the commission shall not be paid for more than 1 meeting per day. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum, and the sessions of the commission shall be public.

**History:** 1909, Act 279, Eff. Sept. 1, 1909;—Am. 1911, Act 203, Eff. Aug. 1, 1911;—CL 1915, 3323;—CL 1929, 2256;—CL 1948, 117.20;—Am. 1977, Act 27, Imd. Eff. June 8, 1977.

**Compiler's note:** Act 203 of 1911, which amended this section, was held unconstitutional and void. See note to MCL 117.1.

The 1911 amendment reads as follows: "Sec. 20. The charter commission shall convene on the second Tuesday after the election at the place designated therefor. The city clerk shall preside at the first meeting, shall administer the oath of office to the members-elect, and shall act as clerk of the commission. It shall be the sole judge of the qualifications, elections and returns of its own members, choose its own officers, except clerk, determine the rules of its proceedings and keep a journal. A roll call of its members on any question shall be entered on the journal at the request of one-fifth of its members or less if it shall so determine. It may fill any vacancy in its membership, and it shall fix the time for the submission of the charter to the electors. No members shall receive compensation for more than ninety days and only for actual attendance. A majority of all the members shall constitute a quorum and its sessions shall be public. The commission may submit with the charter, independent sections or propositions, and such of them as shall receive the approval of a majority of the electors voting thereon shall become a part of the charter if the charter is adopted by the electors."

**Former law:** See Act 279 of 1909.