

Title: ACT OF THE PRC FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF PUBLIC SECURITY STATIONS

Author: passed at the 4th meeting of the Standing Committee of the NPC

Date: Dec. 31, 1954

Source:

Description:

Article 1. In order to strengthen the security of society, to preserve public order, to protect public property, and to safeguard the rights of citizens, city and county public security bureaus may establish public security stations in districts under their jurisdiction.

Public security stations are subagencies through which city and county public security bureaus administer the work of security.

Article 2. The powers of public security stations shall be as follows:

- (1) To safeguard the enforcement of laws relating to public order and the security of society;
- (2) To suppress current sabotage activity of counterrevolutionary elements;
- (3) To prevent and to check sabotage activity of bandits and other criminal elements;
- (4) To control counterrevolutionary and other criminal elements according to law;
- (5) To regulate household registration;
- (6) To regulate theaters, cinemas, hotels, engraving, radio equipment, and other such trades and also explosives, inflammables, and other dangerous articles;
- (7) To protect the scene of major crimes and to assist the relevant departments in solving the cases involved;
- (8) To guide the work of security defense committees;
- (9) To conduct among residents propaganda work relating to heightening revolutionary vigilance, observance of law and public order, and respect for social morality;
- (10) Actively to participate and to assist in the conduct of work relating to the welfare of residents.

Article 3. Public security stations shall be established on the basis of the size of districts, the size of their population, social conditions, and work requirements.

Article 4. Public security stations shall each have a chief, one or two deputy chiefs, and a number of people's policemen.

Public security stations shall conduct their work under the direct leadership of city or county public security bureaus or subbureaus.

Article 5. Public security stations must be intimately linked with the masses. They must conscientiously deal with letters sent in by the people and receive

visits from the people. Moreover, they must report on their work at meetings of residents or of residents' committees and listen to criticisms and suggestions of the people.

Article 6. Personnel of public security stations must faithfully observe the law and observe work discipline. They may not violate the law or disrupt discipline, and they may not infringe the rights of citizens.

Article 7. Railroad and water public security stations shall be managed with reference to the provisions of this Act.

Remarks

The street committees take in principle care of a section of the public security responsibility - the household registrations, and are in charge of the general supervision of the residents such as residential movements. They were also responsible for the daily administration of the local area, by issuing marriage certificates, supervision of family planning, public security, public health, propaganda and culture. The street committees were created 31 December 1954, but were not formally institutionalized until 1982, when defined in the constitution.

The Politics of Neighborhood Governance in China

Wang Jianfeng Universal-Publishers, 2008

On June 8, 1952, Peng Zhen, one of the most vocal and enthusiastic promoters in the state's senior leadership of local self-governance and the rule of law, submitted a report to the CCP Politburo, "A Report on Street Office, Urban Residential Committees, and the Problems of Financial Outlays". In his report, Peng (1990), the then deputy director of the CCP Central Committee's Political-Legal Committee and the mayor of Beijing City, discussed the self-governing nature of the Residents Committee. Peng defined the committees as mass autonomous organizations, not political (i.e., governmental) organizations.

The committee's main goal was to organize those urban residents not encompassed by work units (such as in the factory, school, government, and military), improve their public welfare, popularize government policies and laws, mobilize participation in state-sponsored activities, and represent their interests. Members of the committee should be elected by residential teams and accept the guidance of local governments. Since the committee was not part of any administrative organization, local governments should not delegate extra burdens to it (Peng, 1990). Pg. 53

The CCP Politburo later ratified this report. At the end of 1952, the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) issued two bylaws promoting the committee nationwide: the "Transitory Organic Bylaw of Security and Safeguard Committees" and "the Transitory Organic Bylaw of People's Mediation Committees".

In 1954, MIA issued an administrative order, "A Notice to Establish Street Office and Residents Committees". In that same year, the Standing Committee of the NPC passed the Organic Law of Urban Residents Committees, which finalized the committee's legal status as the urban grassroots self-governing institution. By 1956, the committee had been widely established in most cities pg.54