

# SENATE . . . . No. 172

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To accompany the petition of Frank Barnes relative to the qualifications of representatives of employers and employees on wage boards. Social Welfare.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Three.

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### AN ACT

To establish Certain Qualifications for Members of Wage Boards.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 . SECTION 1. Section two of chapter one hundred and fifty-one of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out in the sixth line thereof  
3 the words "representatives of"; in the seventh  
4 and eighth lines thereof the words "of persons to  
5 represent", and substituting therefor in said  
6 seventh and eighth lines thereof the word: — of;  
7 said section is further amended by adding after  
8 the word "parties", in the fourteenth line thereof,  
9 the words: — and further providing that the em-  
10 ployers and employees making up said board  
11 shall have been in each case, at the time of their

13 selection to said board, actually engaged in the  
14 industry or occupation in question for a period of  
15 at least one year; said section is further amended  
16 by striking out in the eighteenth line thereof the  
17 words “representatives of”, and by striking out  
18 in the twentieth line thereof the words “such rep-  
19 resentatives”, substituting therefor the words:—  
20 from their respective groups; and said section is  
21 further amended by striking out in the twenty-  
22 eighth and twenty-ninth lines thereof, the words  
23 “for representatives”, — so that said section  
24 shall read as follows:— If after such investiga-  
25 tion the commission is of the opinion that in the  
26 occupation in question the wages paid to a sub-  
27 stantial number of female employees are inade-  
28 quate to supply the necessary cost of living and  
29 to maintain the worker in health, it shall establish  
30 a wage board consisting of an equal number of  
31 employers in the occupation in question, and of  
32 the female employees in said occupation, and of  
33 one or more disinterested persons appointed by  
34 it to represent the public; but the representatives  
35 of the public shall not exceed one half of the  
36 number of representatives of either of the other  
37 parties, and further providing that the employers  
38 and employees making up said board shall have  
39 been, in each case, at the time of their selection  
40 to said board, actually engaged in the industry or  
41 occupation in question for a period of at least  
42 one year. The commission shall give notice to  
43 employers and employees in said occupation by  
44 publication or otherwise of its determination to

45 establish a wage board and of the number of  
46 employers and employees to be chosen therefor,  
47 and shall request that said employers and em-  
48 ployees, respectively, nominate from their re-  
49 spective groups, by furnishing names to it.

50 The representatives of employers and em-  
51 ployees shall be selected by the commission  
52 from names furnished by the employers and by  
53 the employees, respectively; provided, that the  
54 same are furnished within ten days after such  
55 request; and provided further, that at least  
56 twice as many names respectively are furnished  
57 as are required. If less than this number of  
58 names are furnished for representatives, either of  
59 employers or of employees, at least one half the  
60 names so furnished shall be selected, and the  
61 remaining places necessary to be filled by the  
62 commission by appointments made directly from  
63 employers, including officers of the corporations,  
64 associations and partnerships, or from employees  
65 in the occupation, as the case may be. The  
66 commission shall designate as chairman one of  
67 the representatives of the public, and shall make  
68 rules and regulations governing the selection of  
69 members and the modes of procedure of the wage  
70 boards, and shall exercise exclusive jurisdiction  
71 over all questions arising with reference to the  
72 validity of the procedure and of the determi-  
73 nations of the wage boards. The members of  
74 wage boards shall be compensated at the same  
75 rate as jurors, and they shall be allowed the  
76 necessary travelling and clerical expenses in-

77 curred in the performance of their duties, these  
78 payments to be made from the appropriation for  
79 the expenses of the commission. The commis-  
80 sion may fill vacancies arising in a duly con-  
81 stituted wage board by appointing a sufficient  
82 number of suitable persons to complete the rep-  
83 resentation of the employers, employees or public,  
84 as the case may be.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon  
2 its passage.