

HOUSE No. 165

By Mr. Baylies of Taunton, petition of Arthur T. Lyman (Commissioner of Correction) that the employment of certain prisoners be authorized in farm and other work during the existing war emergency. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN PRISONERS IN FARM AND OTHER WORK DURING THE EXISTING WAR EMERGENCY.

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. The commissioner of correction may,
2 with the consent of a prisoner sentenced to the state
3 farm, the Massachusetts reformatory, the reforma-
4 tory for women, or to a jail or house of correction,
5 who is serving a sentence in any of the aforesaid in-
6 stitutions, or who has been transferred therefrom to
7 the state prison colony, contract to have the prisoner
8 employed in farm work, or in any other work which
9 said commissioner deems to be in the public interest,
10 for such term, not exceeding the prisoner's term of
11 imprisonment, upon such conditions as said commis-
12 sioner considers proper with reference to the prisoner's
13 welfare and reformation. If, in the opinion of said

14 commissioner, the prisoner's conduct during the term
15 of the contract is not good, or, if in his opinion the
16 prisoner's services should be terminated, he may order
17 the prisoner to return to the prison from which he or
18 she was released. While a prisoner is on release under
19 such a contract, he or she shall be supervised by pa-
20 role officers of the parole board or other employees
21 of the department of correction, who shall make re-
22 ports of the prisoner's doings to said commissioner.

1 SECTION 2. If a prisoner having been indentured
2 under the preceding section leaves his or her place of
3 employment, or if, having been ordered by said com-
4 missioner to return to prison, the prisoner neglects
5 or refuses to do so, the prisoner shall be held to have
6 escaped from prison, and may be arrested and re-
7 turned to the prison from which he or she was re-
8 leased, as if he or she had escaped therefrom. The
9 prisoner shall, upon conviction of such escape, be
10 punished by imprisonment, for an indeterminate term
11 of not more than two years, in the state farm or the
12 Massachusetts reformatory, and, in the case of a fe-
13 male prisoner, in the reformatory for women, said
14 sentence to take effect on and after the sentence the
15 prisoner is then serving. The expense of the pris-
16 oner's arrest and return to prison shall be paid in the
17 same manner as the expense of arrest and return of
18 a prisoner escaping from prison.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall remain in effect during
2 the continuance of the existing state of war between
3 the United States and any foreign country.