

SENATE No. 139

To accompany the petition of the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association, by Harris A. Reynolds, secretary, for legislation to consolidate town agencies which have to do with the planting and care of trees. Towns.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO CONSOLIDATE TOWN AGENCIES WHICH HAVE
TO DO WITH THE PLANTING AND CARE OF TREES.

*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 selectmen of a town, which by
2 vote at an annual town meeting accepts the provisions
3 of this act, shall forthwith appoint a town forest com-
4 mittee as provided under section twenty-one of chap-
5 ter forty-five of the general laws, provided the town
6 does not already have a town forest committee, and
7 all the provisions of that section shall apply to said
8 committee.

1 SECTION 2. The town forest committee is hereby
2 charged with the powers and duties conferred and im-
3 posed upon the tree warden, and it shall have the care
4 of all the public shade trees of the town and the man-
5 agement of the town forest. Said committee by vote

6 of the town may also be charged with the powers and
7 duties of any other elective or appointive officer or
8 commission having to do with the planting, care and
9 protection of trees on town areas such as parks,
10 commons, cemeteries and such other lands as the
11 town may from time to time place under its control.
12 Any office or commission in the town so replaced by
13 said committee shall cease to exist upon the appoint-
14 ment of the town forest committee.

1 SECTION 3. In the management of the property
2 under its control said committee is hereby authorized
3 to employ a town forester, and such other assistants
4 as it may deem necessary to properly discharge the
5 powers and duties imposed upon it. No financial ob-
6 ligation shall be incurred by the committee until an
7 appropriation therefor has been made by the town.
8 The committee shall make an annual report of its
9 work to the town.

1 SECTION 4. To enable town forest committees to
2 obtain the services of trained foresters, which may not
3 be feasible acting as separate units, two or more such
4 committees may form voluntary forestry unions by
5 which the cost of such services may be shared by said
6 committees.