HOUSE . . . No. 988

By Mr. Brennan of Boston, petition of Thomas B. Shea relative to the right of employees to claim compensation in actions brought against third persons under the workmen's compensation law. Labor and Industries.

## The Commonwealth of Wassachusetts

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

An Act to enlarge employees' right to claim compensation after action brought against third person liable.

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 15 of chapter 152 is hereby amended by 2 striking out the period at the end of the last sentence

3 of the same as it now stands, by inserting a semicolon

4 in place of said period and by adding the following

5 proviso:—and further provided, that upon the

6 employee's election before trial to take compensa-

7 tion, notice to the insurer to such effect shall be

8 sufficient to constitute election to take compensation,

9 the employee need not discontinue such action, and

10 the insurer shall upon motion by it, be substituted as

11 party plaintiff in the action brought by the employee

12 and thereupon the insurer may proceed in such action

13 to enforce the liability, if any, of such third person,

14 and if the recovery in such action exceeds the amount

15 of compensation paid, four fifths of such excess shall

16 be paid to the employee.