

SENATE No. 271

To accompany the petition of Kenneth J. Kelley, secretary-treasurer, legislative agent, Massachusetts Federation of Labor, that provision be made for the establishment of an effective minimum wage for certain employees within the Commonwealth. Labor and Industries.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE MINIMUM WAGE FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH.

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 1 of chapter 151 of the Gen-
2 eral Laws, as most recently amended by section 1 of
3 chapter 777 of the acts of 1949, is hereby amended by
4 striking out the words "sections seven, eight and nine"
5 from the last sentence of this section and inserting in
6 place thereof the words:—section nine,—so that
7 the last sentence of the section will read as follows:—
8 A wage of less than sixty-five cents per hour until
9 December thirty-first, nineteen hundred and fifty,
10 seventy cents per hour from January first to Decem-
11 ber thirty-first, nineteen hundred and fifty-one, and
12 seventy-five cents per hour thereafter in any occupa-
13 tion, as defined in this chapter, shall be conclusively
14 presumed to be oppressive and unreasonable, wherever

15 the term minimum wage is used in this chapter, unless
16 the commission has expressly approved or shall ex-
17 pressly approve the establishment and payment of a
18 lesser wage under the provisions of section nine.

1 SECTION 2. Section 19 of chapter 151 of the Gen-
2 eral Laws, as most recently amended by section 3 of
3 chapter 777 of the acts of 1949, is hereby amended by
4 striking out the words "sections seven, eight and
5 nine" in paragraph (2) of amended section 19 and
6 substituting in place thereof the words:—section
7 nine, — so that paragraph (2) of section 19 shall read
8 as follows:— (2) Except as provided by section nine
9 of chapter one hundred and fifty-one, any employer
10 or the officer or agent of any corporation who know-
11 ingly pays or agrees to pay to any employee less than
12 the rates applicable to such employee under a manda-
13 tory minimum fair wage order, or who pays or agrees
14 to pay to any employee less than sixty-five cents per
15 hour in any occupation covered by this chapter, shall
16 be punished by a fine of not less than fifty nor more
17 than two hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not
18 less than ten nor more than ninety days, or by both
19 such fine and imprisonment, and each week in any day
20 of which such employee is paid less than the rate
21 applicable to him under a mandatory minimum fair
22 wage order, and each employee so paid less, shall con-
23 stitute a separate offence.