

# HOUSE . . . . No. 456

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By Mr. Sheehan of Brockton (by request), petition of Lawrence E. Crowley and another for legislation to amend the state labor relations law. Labor and Industries.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Two.

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### AN ACT AMENDING THE STATE LABOR RELATIONS LAW.

*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. Chapter 150A of the General Laws  
2 (Ter. Ed.) is hereby amended by striking out sec-  
3 tion 1 and inserting in place thereof the following:—  
4 *Section 1.* The denial by employers of the right of  
5 employees to organize and the refusal by employers  
6 to accept the procedure of collective bargaining lead  
7 to strikes and other forms of strife or unrest and  
8 substantially and adversely affect the general welfare  
9 of the commonwealth by creating variations and in-  
10 stability in competitive wage rates and working con-  
11 ditions wherever workers are employed, and by de-  
12 pressing the purchasing power of the latter, thus (a)  
13 increasing the disparity between production and con-  
14 sumption, and (b) tending to produce and aggravate  
15 current business depressions.

16 Experience has proved that protection by law of the  
17 right of employees to organize and bargain collectively

18 removes certain recognized sources of strife and unrest,  
19 encourages practices fundamental to the amicable ad-  
20 justment of disputes between employers and employees  
21 arising out of differences as to wages, hours, or other  
22 conditions of employment, and tends to restore equal-  
23 ity of bargaining power between employers and em-  
24 ployees.

25 In the interpretation and application of this chapter  
26 and otherwise, it is hereby declared to be the public  
27 policy of the commonwealth to encourage the practice  
28 and procedure of collective bargaining and to protect  
29 the exercise by employees of full freedom of association,  
30 self-organization, and designation of representatives  
31 of their own choosing, for the purpose of negotiating  
32 the terms and conditions of their employment or other  
33 mutual aid or protection, free from the interference,  
34 restraint or coercion of their employers.

35 All the provisions of this chapter shall be liberally  
36 construed for the accomplishment of this purpose.

37 This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the  
38 police power of the commonwealth for the protection  
39 of the public welfare, prosperity, health and peace of  
40 the people of the commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. Section 5 (c) of chapter 150A of the  
2 General Laws, inserted by chapter 345 of the acts of  
3 1938, as amended by chapter 657 of the acts of 1947,  
4 is hereby further amended by striking out the first  
5 sentence of the first paragraph thereof and inserting  
6 in place thereof the following sentence:— Wherever  
7 a question arises concerning the representation of em-  
8 ployees, the commission may investigate and certify to  
9 the parties in writing the name or names of the repre-  
10 sentatives that have been designated or selected.

1 SECTION 3. Section 6 (a) of chapter 150A of the  
2 General Laws, inserted by chapter 345 of the acts of  
3 1938, as amended by chapter 657 of the acts of 1947,  
4 is hereby further amended by striking out said sec-  
5 tion 6 (a) and inserting in place thereof the follow-  
6 ing:—

7 *Section 6.* (a) The commission is empowered as  
8 hereinafter provided, to prevent any person from en-  
9 gaging in any unfair labor practice listed in section  
10 four or section four A. This power shall be exclusive,  
11 and shall not be affected by any other means of ad-  
12 justment or prevention that has been or may be es-  
13 tablished by agreement, code, law or otherwise.

