
Moved (Mr. Porter of Agawam) as a substitute for a report of the committee on Legal Affairs, reference to the next annual session (under Joint Rule 10), on the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 188) of George W. Porter for legislation to prohibit the sale or distribution of comic books showing pictures of lust or crime. May 24.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DISSEMINATION OF LITERATURE OF LUST OR CRIME.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 272 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by inserting after section 30 the following section:—
3 *Section 30A.* Whoever sells, lends, gives away or has
4 in his possession with intent to sell, lend, give away or
5 distribute, or offers to sell, lend, give away or distribute
6 a book, magazine, comic book or paper showing pictures
7 of lust or crime, as herein defined, or exhibits upon a
8 public way or in any other place within public view, or
9 employs another to sell, lend, give away or distribute
10 any such book, magazine, comic book or paper, shall be
11 punished by imprisonment for not more than two years
12 or by a fine of not more than two thousand dollars. For
13 the purposes of this section the words "pictures of lust
14 or crime" shall mean pictures which are salacious or
15 suggestive of sex relations, seduction, rape or sex pervers-
16 sion, or which portray knife-play, torture, physical agony,
17 depravity, gruesomeness, sadism, masochism, vampirism,
18 cannibalism or scenes of horror or excessive violence or
19 which are calculated to give instructive details and
20 methods of crime.

