

HOUSE No. 2961

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 14, 1958.

The committee on Public Safety, to whom was referred the report of the special commission (including members of the General Court) established (under Chapter 150 of the Resolves of 1957) to make an investigation relative to the fighting of forest fires (House, No. 2709), report (in part) the accompanying bill (House, No. 2961).

For the committee,

GEORGE R. COMO.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR WANTON OR RECKLESS INJURY OR DESTRUCTION OF WOODS BY FIRE.

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 266 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 7, as appearing in the Tercen-
3 tenary Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following
4 section: —

5 *Section 7.* Whoever by carelessly or recklessly setting fire to
6 any material, or by increasing a fire already set, causes injury
7 to, or the destruction of any growing or standing wood of
8 another shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hun-
9 dred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 266 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 8, as most recently amended by section 1 of
3 chapter 370 of the acts of 1948, and inserting in place thereof
4 the following section: —

5 *Section 8.* Whoever wilfully, maliciously, or without reason-
6 able care sets or increases a fire upon land of another whereby
7 the property of another is injured, or whoever maliciously or wil-
8 fully suffers any fire upon his own land to extend beyond the
9 limits thereof, whereby the woods or property of another are
10 injured, shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thou-
11 sand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than ten years.