

SENATE No. 577

[Senate, No. 577. — Substituted by amendment by the Senate (Bowker) for the Senate Report of the committee on the Judiciary, reference to the next annual session, on the petition of Harvey L. Solar and Philip G. Bowker, accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 27.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DETENTION FOR QUESTIONING AND ARREST
OF PERSONS SUSPECTED OF SHOPLIFTING.

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 231 of the General Laws is hereby amended by in-
2 serting after section 94A, inserted by chapter 169 of the acts of
3 1953, the following section: —

4 *Section 94B.* In an action for false arrest or false imprison-
5 ment by reason of any person having been detained for question-
6 ing on the premises of a merchant it shall be a defence if such
7 detention was in a reasonable manner and for a reasonable length
8 of time, and by a person authorized to make arrests or by the
9 merchant or an employee designated by him, and if there were
10 reasonable grounds to believe that the person so detained was
11 attempting to commit or had committed larceny of goods dis-
12 played for sale on the premises by the merchant.

