
To accompany the petition of Fred S. Ferris for legislation to require the installation of a safety control device on cinematographs or similar apparatus to eliminate fire hazards. Military Affairs and Public Safety.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF A SAFETY CONTROL DEVICE ON CINEMATOGRAPHS OR SIMILAR APPARATUS TO ELIMINATE FIRE HAZARDS.

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 one hundred and forty-three
2 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
3 after section seventy-two, as appearing in the Ter-
4 centenary Edition, the following new section: —
5 *Section 72A.* No cinematograph or other appa-
6 ratus, hereinafter in this section called the machine,
7 involving the use of an inflammable film or projection
8 record shall be used for the purpose of exhibiting such
9 film or record in any place where an audience or col-
10 lection of persons is assembled to witness said exhibi-
11 tion unless the machine is equipped or fitted with a
12 safety control device that will automatically interpose
13 an opaque heat-resisting shutter or guard between the
14 projection light and said film or projection record
15 instantaneously on the breaking of the said film or
16 record, due to burning or other cause on the stopping

17 of the movement of said film or record through the
18 path of said light, or on any interruption of or change
19 of the regular feed movement of said film or record
20 through said path of light from that required by the
21 regular operation of the machine due either to fire or
22 defect in said film or record or in the operating mech-
23 anism of the machine or from other causes, and that
24 will instantly shut off the motive power of the ma-
25 chine and stop its moving mechanism. Said safety
26 control device shall be free from a multiplicity of con-
27 tact controls in order to reduce congestion of parts
28 with consequent possibility of mishap and confusion
29 and shall, in the case of a picture projection machine
30 or device, comprise a single control unit operated by
31 the moving film or record and, in the case of a com-
32 bined picture projection and sound reproducing ma-
33 chine, comprise not more than two such control units,
34 one for the picture projection mechanism and the
35 other for the sound mechanism.

1 SECTION 2. Section seventy-three of said chapter
2 one hundred and forty-three, as so appearing, is
3 hereby amended by striking out, in the second line,
4 the words "the preceding section" and inserting in
5 place thereof the words: — sections seventy-two and
6 seventy-two A, — so as to read as follows: — *Section*
7 *73.* The inspectors shall inspect any such apparatus
8 which is to be kept or used as specified in sections
9 seventy-two and seventy-two A, and any booth or
10 enclosure provided therefor, and the commissioner of
11 public safety shall make such rules and regulations as
12 he may deem necessary for the safe use thereof.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on January
2 first, nineteen hundred and forty.