

HOUSE No. 2334

By Mr. Tyler of Watertown, petition of Edgar F. Copell and another for legislation relative to the clearance of tracks in railroad yards. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CLEARANCE OF TRACKS IN RAILROAD YARDS.

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 134A of chapter 160 of the General Laws,
2 inserted by chapter 815 of the acts of 1950, is hereby
3 amended by inserting after the word "works," in line
4 21, the words: — the metropolitan district commis-
5 sion, — so as to read as follows: — *Section 134A.*
6 Tracks maintained by a railroad corporation in a
7 railroad yard shall have a minimum distance between
8 the center lines of parallel tracks of not less than
9 thirteen feet, and the center line of any ladder track,
10 or lead track, constructed parallel to any other ad-
11 jacent track shall have a clearance of not less than
12 seventeen feet from the center line of such other
13 track. No structures or obstructions shall be main-
14 tained in such yard nearer than eight feet and six
15 inches from the center line of any track; provided,
16 that signals and switch stands therein which are lo-

17 cated between tracks and are three feet or less in
18 height above the top of the rail may have a clearance
19 of not less than six feet and six inches from the center
20 line of track where it is not practicable to provide the
21 aforesaid clearance of eight feet and six inches. No
22 bridges, viaducts or other obstructions shall be con-
23 structed and, so far as practicable, no bridges, via-
24 ducts or other obstructions shall be reconstructed,
25 over the tracks in a railroad yard at a height less than
26 twenty-two feet and six inches measured from the
27 top of the rail. Upon petition of any railroad cor-
28 poration, the state department of public works, the
29 metropolitan district commission, the county com-
30 missioners of any county, the selectmen of any town,
31 the city manager of any city having a Plan D or E
32 charter, or the mayor of any other city, the depart-
33 ment of public utilities, after due notice and public
34 hearing, may grant an exemption from any and all
35 requirements of this section; provided, however, that
36 any exemption so granted shall be limited to the
37 specific location described in said petition; and pro-
38 vided, further, that the department of public utilities
39 shall fix and prescribe reasonable regulations govern-
40 ing the location exempted.