

SENATE No. 707

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, September 20, 1960.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was committed the Senate Bill establishing a board to adopt rules and regulations relative to the installation, repair and maintenance of gas facilities in buildings (Senate, No. 579), — report recommending that the same ought to pass, with an amendment substituting a new draft entitled “An Act providing for the promulgation of uniform rules and regulations to govern gasfitting in buildings throughout the Commonwealth” (Senate, No. 707).

For the committee,

MARY L. FONSECA.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROMULGATION OF UNIFORM RULES AND REGULATIONS TO GOVERN GASFITTING IN BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH.

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 25 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding after section 12G the following section:—
3 *Section 12H.* There shall be in the department a board
4 consisting of the chairman of the commission or a representa-
5 tive from his department designated by him, the commissioner
6 of public safety or a representative from his department desig-
7 nated by him and the commissioner of public health or a
8 representative from his department designated by him. Sub-
9 ject to the provisions of chapter thirty A and after public
10 hearing, notice of which shall have been given by advertising
11 in at least one newspaper in each of the cities of Boston,
12 Worcester, Springfield, Fall River, Lowell and Lynn, at least
13 ten days before such hearing, said board shall make, and
14 from time to time in like manner may alter, amend and
15 repeal, rules and regulations relative to gasfitting in buildings
16 throughout the commonwealth, which rules and regulations
17 shall be reasonable, uniform, based on generally accepted
18 standards of engineering practice, and designed to prevent
19 fire, explosion, injury and death, and not inconsistent with
20 regulation No. 11725 of the department or the provisions of
21 chapter one hundred and forty-two or the rules and regula-
22 tions made under the authority thereof, or the qualification
23 of master plumbers and journeymen plumbers as gasfitters
24 contained in section three of said chapter one hundred and
25 forty-two. As used in this section the word "gasfitting" shall
26 be construed to include the installation, alteration and replace-

27 ment of fixtures, appliances and facilities, used or intended
28 for use, in connection with fuel gas of any kind, including,
29 without limitation, natural gas, manufactured gas, and lique-
30 fied petroleum gas-air or mixtures thereof.

31 Any person aggrieved by a ruling interpreting rules and
32 regulations made under this section, including any person
33 aggrieved by any such ruling made by the building commis-
34 sioner of Boston, may appeal to the aforesaid board in writing
35 within ten days after such ruling; and, subject to the provi-
36 sions of chapter thirty A relative to adjudicatory proceedings,
37 said board shall hear and decide such appeal. Subject to said
38 provisions of chapter thirty A, such decision shall be final
39 and binding upon, and complied with by, all parties in interest.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 143 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 3L the following two sec-
3 tions: —

4 *Section 3N.* No person shall engage in gas fitting in the
5 city of Boston without first making application to the building
6 commissioner of said city and obtaining a permit therefor in
7 accordance with the Boston Building Code; nor shall any
8 person engage in gasfitting in any other city or town with-
9 out first giving such notice as shall be prescribed by rules
10 and regulations made by the board established under section
11 twelve H of chapter twenty-five.

12 Whoever violates any provision of this section or any rule
13 or regulation adopted under section twelve H of chapter
14 twenty-five shall be punished by a fine of not more than five
15 hundred dollars. Each day during any portion of which a
16 violation is permitted to exist shall be considered a separate
17 offence.

18 *Section 3O.* Each city and town shall provide by ordinance
19 or by-law for the appointment of an inspector of gas piping
20 and gas appliances in buildings whose duty shall be the enforce-
21 ment of the rules and regulations adopted by the board estab-
22 lished under section twelve H of chapter twenty-five, or shall
23 designate an agent who shall certify that gas piping or gas

24 appliances in buildings are properly installed, altered or re-
25 placed.

1 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of section three
2 O of chapter one hundred forty-three of the General Laws,
3 as appearing in section two of this act, any city or town officer
4 or employee who on the effective date of this act is charged
5 with the duty of inspecting gas piping and gas appliances in
6 buildings shall continue to perform such duties and shall also
7 be designated and named the inspector of gas piping and gas
8 appliances, as provided in said section three O.

1 SECTION 4. All by-laws and ordinances of cities and towns
2 relating to gasfitting within buildings are hereby annulled.

1 SECTION 5. Section one hundred and sixteen of chapter
2 four hundred and seventy-nine of the acts of nineteen hundred
3 and thirty-eight is hereby amended by striking out paragraph
4 (i) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:—
5 (i) The owners of buildings in Boston shall comply with,
6 and all materials used and work performed in gasfitting in
7 Boston shall be in accordance with, the rules and regulations
8 from time to time in effect under the provisions of section
9 twelve H of chapter twenty-five of the General Laws, except
10 as such rules and regulations may be varied under the provi-
11 sions of sections one hundred and seventeen, one hundred and
12 eighteen and one hundred and nineteen of this code. The
13 commissioner and the health commissioner of the city of Bos-
14 ton shall severally have power to inspect from time to time
15 gas fixtures and appliances in any and all buildings in Boston
16 and to compel compliance in Boston with the rules and regula-
17 tions aforesaid.

1 SECTION 6. The board established by section twelve H of
2 chapter twenty-five of the General Laws, shall, in the manner
3 prescribed in said section, adopt as its rules and regulations,
4 the regulations and standards contained in the code embodied
5 in Senate document numbered 490 of the current year.

1 SECTION 7. Sections two, three, four and five of this act
2 shall take effect on the effective date of the rules and regula-
3 tions first adopted under section twelve H of chapter twenty-
4 five of the General Laws.

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