

HOUSE No. 1157

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 16, 1927.

The committee on Conservation, to whom was referred the Bill (taken from the files of the preceding year) regulating the extinguishment and prevention of forest fires (House, No. 417), report that the same ought to pass in a new draft herewith submitted (House, No. 1157).

For the committee,

GEO. L. L. ALLEN.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Seven.

An Act regulating the Extinguishment and Prevention of
Forest Fires.

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. Section fourteen of chapter forty-eight of
2 the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out all
3 after the word "marshal" in the fourth line, — so as to
4 read as follows: — *Section 14.* The preceding section
5 shall not apply to fires which may be set, maintained or
6 increased within said metropolitan district in accordance
7 with regulations and methods approved by the state fire
8 marshal.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter forty-eight is hereby further
2 amended by striking out section fifteen and inserting in
3 place thereof the following: —

4 *Section 15.* The forester, the state fire warden or any
5 duly authorized assistant, forest wardens in towns and
6 officials performing the duties of forest wardens in cities,
7 or any duly appointed deputy forest warden, the director
8 of the division of the fisheries and game, fish and game
9 wardens and deputy fish and game wardens may arrest
10 without warrant any person found in the act of setting,
11 maintaining or increasing a fire in violation of sections
12 thirteen and fourteen. They shall take precautions to

13 prevent the progress of forest fires, or the improper
14 kindling thereof, and upon the discovery of any such
15 fire shall immediately summon the necessary assistance
16 in accordance with section ten and notify the local forest
17 warden.

1 SECTION 3. Section twenty-four of said chapter forty-
2 eight, as amended by chapter two hundred and fourteen
3 of the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-three, is
4 hereby further amended by adding at the end thereof
5 the following:— In the event of a forest fire getting be-
6 yond the control of a local forest warden the forester or
7 his assistant may take entire charge of such fire and engage
8 necessary help and equipment to extinguish the same.
9 All expenses incurred in a town wherein a fire occurs
10 after the forester has so taken charge shall be divided
11 equally between such town and the commonwealth. The
12 expense of extinguishing such fires shall be paid by the
13 commonwealth upon presentation of pay rolls and vouch-
14 ers approved in such manner as the forester shall direct.
15 One half of any such sums paid hereunder shall be as-
16 sessed in the town in which the service was rendered or
17 the property used.

1 SECTION 4. Section nine of chapter one hundred and
2 thirty of the General Laws is hereby repealed.

