

HOUSE No. 943

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 27, 1928.

The Committee on Mercantile Affairs to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 26) of Frederick Harlan Page, president, and others for an enlargement of the powers of the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 943).

For the committee,

ISIDORE H. FOX.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

An Act amending the Charter of the Massachusetts
Home Missionary Society.

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 fifty-two of the acts of
2 eighteen hundred and eight, as affected by chapter
3 thirty-five of the acts of eighteen hundred and
4 twenty-three, by chapter fourteen of the acts of
5 eighteen hundred and forty-four, by chapter one
6 hundred and nineteen of the acts of eighteen hun-
7 dred and eighty-six and by chapter eighty-one of
8 the acts of nineteen hundred and twenty-four and as
9 amended by said chapter eighty-one, is hereby
10 further amended by striking out in line seven of
11 section one the word "places" and inserting in
12 place thereof the words:—and destitute places,
13 also for the purposes of facilitating intercourse
14 and fellowship between the Congregational churches
15 and ministers of the commonwealth, of effecting co-
16 operation between these churches for their mutual
17 edification, of promoting their general missionary
18 and benevolent activities and providing instrument-
19 alities for the same, of affording opportunity for the
20 presentation and discussion of matters affecting
21 the interests of these churches and of the Congrega-

22 tional denomination at large and of acting in con-
23 cert with other ecclesiastical bodies for the general
24 increase of Christian union and spiritual efficiency
25 and the advancement of Christ's kingdom on the
26 earth,— and by striking out so much of said sec-
27 tion as follows the word "corporate" in line nine
28 and substituting therefor the words:— for the pur-
29 poses aforesaid by the name of Massachusetts Con-
30 gregational Conference and Missionary Society;
31 may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, ap-
32 pear, prosecute and defend to final judgment and
33 execution, and may have a common seal which they
34 may break, change, alter or renew at pleasure,—
35 so that said section shall read as follows:—*Section*
36 *1. Be it enacted by the senate and house of repre-*
37 *sentatives in general court assembled, and by the*
38 *authority of the same: That the Rev. Daniel Hop-*
39 *kins, the Rev. Samuel Spring, Mr. Henry Gray, the*
40 *Rev. Samuel Niles and the Rev. Joseph Barker,*
41 *with their associates, for the purpose of diffusing*
42 *the knowledge of the gospel of Jesus Christ among*
43 *the heathen and others in remote and destitute*
44 *places, also for the purposes of facilitating inter-*
45 *course and fellowship between the Congregational*
46 *churches and ministers of the commonwealth, of*
47 *effecting co-operation between these churches for*
48 *their mutual edification, of promoting their general*
49 *missionary and benevolent activities and providing*
50 *instrumentalities for the same, of affording op-*
51 *portunity for the presentation and discussion of*
52 *matters affecting the interests of these churches and*
53 *of the Congregational denomination at large and*
54 *of acting in concert with other ecclesiastical bodies*
55 *for the general increase of Christian union and*

56 spiritual efficiency and the advancement of Christ's
57 kingdom on the earth be and they are hereby in-
58 corporated and made a body politic and corporate
59 for the purposes aforesaid by the name of Mas-
60 sachusetts Congregational Conference and Mission-
61 ary Society; may sue and be sued, plead and be im-
62 pleaded, appear, prosecute and defend to final judg-
63 ment and execution, and may have a common seal
64 which they may break, change, alter or renew at
65 pleasure.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter fifty-two of the acts
2 of eighteen hundred and eight, affected and
3 amended as aforesaid, is hereby further amended
4 by striking out sections two and three and inserting
5 in place thereof the following:—

6 *Section 2. Be it further enacted:* That the said
7 corporation may take and hold by donation, bequest
8 or otherwise real and personal property to an
9 amount not exceeding five million dollars and may
10 in addition take and hold in trust for any of the
11 purposes specified in the first section of this act or
12 for any purpose germane thereto any real or per-
13 sonal property to an amount not exceeding one mil-
14 lion dollars which may be given, bequeathed or
15 otherwise conveyed or transferred to them upon
16 such trusts. The said corporation shall be eligible
17 to appointment as trustee under any written instru-
18 ment whereby any trust for any of the purposes
19 specified in the first section of this act or for any
20 purpose germane thereto is created or established.
21 *Section 3. Be it further enacted:* That the said
22 corporation may choose by ballot at their annual
23 meetings a president, secretary, treasurer, and such

24 number of trustees as they may think proper, and
25 such other officers as they shall judge necessary.
26 Persons chosen as trustees (other than those per-
27 sons, if any, whom the said corporation may by
28 their by-laws designate as trustees ex officio) shall
29 hold office for such time, not exceeding five years,
30 as the corporation by their by-laws may from time
31 to time provide and all other officers shall hold office
32 for one year. The said corporation may by their
33 by-laws provide that their meetings shall be pre-
34 sided over by a moderator, to be chosen in such
35 manner as they may from time to time determine,
36 and may further provide by their by-laws that the
37 ministers of Congregational churches in the com-
38 monwealth and delegates appointed by such
39 churches and other religious organizations may be
40 members of the said corporation for the time being
41 upon such conditions and subject to such regula-
42 tions as the said corporation may establish. All
43 of the officers of the said corporation, when chosen,
44 may hold their offices until others are chosen in their
45 stead. Any vacancy in such offices shall be filled in
46 such manner as the corporation may by their by-
47 laws determine.

1 SECTION 3. Any devise, bequest, gift or grant
2 contained in any will or other instrument in trust
3 or otherwise made before or after the passage of
4 this act to the said corporation by the name of
5 "Massachusetts Missionary Society" or "Mas-
6 sachusetts Home Missionary Society" shall inure to
7 their benefit to the same extent as if made to them
8 by the name of "Massachusetts Congregational
9 Conference and Missionary Society."

1 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its
2 acceptance by the said corporation at an annual
3 meeting or at a special meeting duly called for the
4 purpose, provided that such acceptance occurs not
5 later than December thirty-first in the current year.

