

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS ON THE INITIATIVE PETITION OF JOHN A. STITT AND OTHERS (SEE HOUSE, NO. 215).

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 28, 1928.

### MAJORITY REPORT.

In compliance with the provisions of Article XLVIII of the Amendments of the Constitution, the committee on Legal Affairs, to whom was referred the initiative petition of John A. Stitt and others, accompanied by "An Act to make November eleventh, Armistice Day, a legal holiday in this Commonwealth hereafter", transmitted to the General Court by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on December 19, 1927, and printed as House, No. 215, having heard the petitioners and all parties in interest, and having duly considered the matter, herewith submits its recommendations relative thereto, and the reasons therefor:

1. We believe that Armistice Day should be made a legal holiday in this Commonwealth. No state has fewer holidays than Massachusetts, and only two other states, New Mexico and Wisconsin, have as few holidays. The great industrial states of the Union, other than Massachusetts, all have more holidays than our own State, and all have made Armistice Day a holiday. Forty-five states in the Union have already made Armistice Day a legal holiday, and only three — Massachusetts, Michigan and New Hampshire — have failed to do so to date. Reports indicate clearly that it is effectively observed in all of the states where it has been adopted.

2. A holiday is essential in order to properly observe Armistice Day, and to inculcate in the minds of all the people the great lessons of the World War and the cherished blessings of peace. Armistice Day is distinctive, and brings to mind lessons in sturdy Americanism which are not directly associated with any other day. Armistice Day is not solely a day of memorial, but it is a day set apart for veterans of the World War, members of their families, and every good citizen of the United States in order to recall the sacrifices made in defence of our country, and in defence of our cherished principles. It is indeed a day of memories, and it is also a day of peace, a day of celebration, a day of great joy, a day on which the safety of America and of humanity, and the lessons of safeguarding and making secure American principles and the peace of America, may be effectively taught and advanced. It is useless to compare Armistice Day with other holidays on our calendar. Each other holiday has its own association and its own distinctive lessons.

For the foregoing reasons the committee believes that the law asked for by the petitioners should be enacted, and therefore recommends that the bill ought to pass.

EDWARD T. SIMONEAU.  
ROBERT E. BIGNEY.  
WILLIAM E. KIRKPATRICK.  
ELMER E. SPEAR.  
ALLAN B. MACGREGOR.  
WALTER G. POWERS.  
ABRAHAM B. CASSON.  
ARNOLD LEONARD.  
BENNETT V. McLAUGHLIN.  
JOSEPH FINNEGAN.  
FRANK D. CROWLEY.

## MINORITY REPORT.

In accordance with the provisions of Article XLVIII of the Amendments of the Constitution, the undersigned members of the committee on Legal Affairs, to whom was referred the initiative petition relative to making Armistice Day a legal holiday (House, No. 215), beg leave to submit the following minority report:

We respectfully *dissent* from the report of the majority of the committee. Before taking this action, we have given careful consideration to the praiseworthy efforts of the proponents of this measure and the arguments advanced by the organizations of great strength and virtue that sponsor it. While our personal inclination would be in favor of establishing a legal holiday in commemoration of Armistice Day, we believe it to be our duty as representatives of the people to oppose it. The establishment of another legal holiday at the present time, especially in the month of November when one already exists, will seriously affect thousands of working men and women, who are paid only for every day they work. The loss of one day's pay means a sacrifice in food, clothing and savings to them and their dependent families. At present, many employees and willing workers are employed only on part time — to them the sacrifice is even greater. The number of working persons who suffer no loss of pay on account of holidays does not offset the serious consequences to the great number who do.

We believe present conditions require this matter to be considered by the people whose rights are affected, and the General Court should not force upon them an additional holiday at this time. The defeat of this measure by the General Court will not deny those who would be affected the opportunity afforded by our refer-

endum laws to express their preference in this important matter at the ballot box at such time as it may come before them.

THOMAS H. BILODEAU.  
CHARLES WARD JOHNSON.  
MAYNARD E. S. CLEMONS.  
CHARLES J. LITTLE.