

HOUSE No. 1244

By Mr. Sawyer of Ware, petition of the State Executive Committee of the Socialist Party for establishment of a production employment and relief board to provide additional employment and to furnish additional supplies and services for the unemployed. Labor and Industries.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Six.

An Act providing for Additional Employment and for furnishing Additional Supplies and Services for the Better Relief of the Unemployed.

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. There shall be created, for the purpose
2 of giving employment to those out of work and pro-
3 ducing or otherwise furnishing materials and services
4 to the cities, towns, counties and the commonwealth
5 for the needs of the unemployed and destitute or for
6 other purposes, within the department of public wel-
7 fare but not subject to its jurisdiction, a board of five
8 members to be known as the Massachusetts Produc-
9 tion, Employment and Relief Board, hereinafter
10 called the board.

1 SECTION 2. The governor by and with the consent
2 and advice of the council shall appoint one member of

3 the board who shall serve until January first, nineteen
4 hundred and thirty-seven; one member to serve until
5 January first, nineteen hundred and thirty-eight; one
6 member to serve until January first, nineteen hundred
7 and thirty-nine; one member to serve until January
8 first, nineteen hundred and forty; and one member to
9 serve until January first, nineteen hundred and forty-
10 one. All members of the board appointed after these
11 first five shall serve for terms of six years each. Each
12 member of the board shall receive as compensation for
13 his services as such six thousand dollars a year and
14 shall also be reimbursed by the commonwealth for his
15 actual and necessary traveling expenses incurred while
16 in the performance of his duties.

1 SECTION 3. At least two members of the board
2 shall be persons who are members of recognized labor
3 unions.

1 SECTION 4. The board shall have power to sue
2 and be sued, to make and execute such contracts and
3 do such other acts as shall be deemed necessary and
4 proper in the exercise of the powers and privileges
5 granted by this section and in the performance of its
6 duties, and to exercise such additional powers as may
7 be conferred upon it from time to time by the general
8 court.

1 SECTION 5. The board shall have power —

2 (a) To purchase, construct, acquire by eminent
3 domain, take possession of, and lease lands, mines,
4 quarries, forests, mineral deposits, water rights and
5 other natural resources for the purpose of farming,
6 mining, lumbering, fishing or quarrying, to obtain

7 the raw material needed by the board, and for the
8 purpose of constructing buildings and works.

9 (b) To purchase, acquire, take possession of, build,
10 construct, operate and acquire by eminent domain
11 the property and plants, machinery, or equipment of a
12 company or corporation, including buildings, ma-
13 chinery, rights of way and other facilities of said com-
14 pany within the territorial limits of the state; to
15 construct new property and works; and to sell and
16 convey the whole or any part thereof as may be
17 deemed necessary, to construct any addition or exten-
18 sion thereto and to maintain and operate such prop-
19 erty and plants, machinery, or equipment.

20 (c) To buy, manufacture, store, prepare, preserve,
21 can, pack, bottle, pasteurize, distribute and sell milk,
22 meat, bread stuffs, vegetables, foods and food stuffs
23 of every kind and description.

24 (d) The board shall have power to buy, store, mine,
25 manufacture, generate, distribute and sell clothing,
26 clothing material, ice, electricity, coal, coke, fuel,
27 fuel oil, gasoline, artificial and natural gas, other fuels,
28 furniture, dishes, floor coverings, mattresses, blankets,
29 bedding, kitchen utensils, household supplies, books,
30 papers, shoes, gas and electric fixtures, plumbing,
31 radios, paint, twine, wire, fencing, sacks, farm imple-
32 ments, hardware, stoves, and any and everything
33 that may be considered necessary to an American
34 standard of living for the agricultural and industrial
35 worker.

36 (e) To construct, maintain, build, reconstruct,
37 alter, repair, rent, lease and sell buildings to be used
38 for dwellings, to house either one or more families.

39 (f) To sell, give, trade, lease, barter, loan, transfer
40 and store the products and services created by it in

41 such manner as to best carry out the purposes of this
42 act.

43 (g) To establish such offices, branches, subsidiary
44 operations, units, warehouses and agencies of various
45 kinds for such purposes and in such places as may be
46 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

47 (h) To borrow money when and as authorized by
48 the general court, to receive money from public or
49 private sources in return for services performed or to
50 be performed or supplies furnished or to be fur-
51 nished, and to enter into any arrangements with the
52 Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Works Prog-
53 ress Administration, the Public Works Administra-
54 tion, the Federal Relief Administration, the Federal
55 Surplus Products Corporation, and other agencies of
56 the federal government, for the receipt and expendi-
57 ture of any grant of funds necessary to finance the
58 purchase, acquisition by eminent domain or otherwise,
59 and/or construction of any property, plant, ma-
60 chinery, or equipment, and extensions, additions or
61 betterments thereto.

62 (i) To enter into any arrangements with the cities,
63 towns, counties or with the commonwealth to give
64 employment to any persons either now being supported
65 in whole or in part by public funds or otherwise, or to
66 furnish supplies or services to the various municipal,
67 county or state agencies for the relief of the unem-
68 ployed or for other purposes.

69 (j) To appoint and employ a secretary, treasurer,
70 general manager, attorney and such assistants to each
71 and such superintendents, expert operators, workmen,
72 assistants, stenographers, clerks, engineers, salesmen,
73 surveyors, laborers, and employees as may be deemed
74 necessary and proper to protect, maintain, improve,

75 and operate the property, works, plant, machinery,
76 and affairs of the board, and to fix their compensation,
77 prescribe the amount and form of bond required of
78 them and to approve the same.

1 SECTION 6. All of the powers conferred by this
2 section upon the said board are intended to enable it to
3 furnish employment to such persons as are residents
4 of the state and in need of employment, to relieve the
5 distress caused by unemployment, and to raise the
6 standard of living of persons employed or unemployed.
7 The board shall undertake such of the projects author-
8 ized by this act and exercise such of the powers herein
9 conferred as will best furnish employment to those
10 residents of the state who are in need of employment.

1 SECTION 7. The wages and hours of labor of per-
2 sons employed by the board on any work or service
3 undertaken under the provisions of this act shall be
4 fixed by the board subject at all times to change or
5 alteration by the board of mediation as hereinafter
6 provided. Such wages shall always be paid in cash
7 and shall never be less than the prevailing union rate of
8 wages in the vicinity for similar work; and no employee
9 shall work more than thirty hours in any one week or
10 more than six hours in any one day except in cases of
11 extreme emergency.

1 SECTION 8. A board of mediation consisting of two
2 members appointed by the board, two members ap-
3 pointed by the labor unions to which the employees
4 engaged in any capacity on any work or service under-
5 taken under the provisions of this section may belong,
6 and one member appointed by the four members so

7 appointed shall decide all questions affecting wages,
8 hours of labor or other conditions in any manner
9 affecting employees.

1 SECTION 9. The board shall receive applications
2 of all persons desiring employment and shall file the
3 same and make every effort in order to furnish employ-
4 ment to such applicants, giving preference among
5 applicants equally qualified to those on the welfare
6 or having the largest number of dependents.

1 SECTION 10. There is hereby appropriated from
2 the general fund to the Massachusetts Production,
3 Employment and Relief Board to enable it to carry
4 out its functions and for the purposes of this act, the
5 sum of ten million dollars.

1 SECTION 11. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.

