
By Mr. Rawson of Newton, petition of Daniel Bloomfield and George E. Rawson relative to the detention or arrest of persons suspected of larceny of goods offered for sale. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DETENTION OR ARREST OF PERSONS
SUSPECTED OF LARCENY OF GOODS OFFERED FOR SALE.

*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. A peace officer, or a merchant, or a merchant's
2 employee, may use reasonable force to detain for questioning
3 for a reasonable length of time on the merchant's premises
4 any person whom he has reasonable ground to believe has
5 committed larceny of goods displayed for sale by the mer-
6 chant. Such detention shall not constitute an arrest.

1 SECTION 2. A peace officer may arrest without warrant
2 any person whom he has reasonable ground to believe has
3 committed larceny of goods displayed for sale. A charge
4 made to a peace officer by a merchant or a merchant's em-
5 ployee shall constitute a reasonable ground for such arrest.
6 No merchant or merchant's employee shall be criminally or
7 civilly liable for false arrest or false imprisonment of any per-
8 son arrested under this paragraph where said merchant or
9 merchant's employee had a reasonable ground for charging
10 said person with commission of larceny of goods displayed for
11 sale.

