

SENATE No. 70

To accompany the petition of Sanford Bates that five-sixths of the members of juries may be authorized to render verdicts in civil actions. Joint Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen.

AN ACT

Relative to Verdicts by Juries in Civil Actions.

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. In all civil actions which shall be tried
2 by a jury in this commonwealth, after twelve hours de-
3 liberation, the agreement of five sixths of any jury
4 therein shall constitute a sufficient, true and valid ver-
5 dict. The deliberation of the jury shall be deemed to
6 have commenced when the officer has conducted the jury
7 to their consultation room and the clerk in charge of the
8 session shall enter such time in his records.

1 SECTION 2. Where the verdict is agreed to by all the
2 jurors the foreman only shall sign the verdict; when less

3 than the full number agree on the verdict the same shall
4 be signed by all the jurors who concur therein and the
5 clerk of said court shall enter on his minutes the number
6 of said jurors concurring in such verdict.

1 SECTION 3. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent here-
2 with are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 4. The provisions of this act shall not apply
2 to civil causes entered in court before the passage thereof.