

# SENATE . . . . . No. 394

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Bill accompanying the Report of the Special Recess Commission on Education (Senate, No. 330). Printed by order of the Senate.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

### AN ACT

To revise Chapter Forty-three of the Revised Laws.

*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. The annual report of the board of education,  
2 and such bulletins and circulars issued by the board of educa-  
3 tion as may be of special interest, shall be sent by the com-  
4 missioner of education to the chairman of the school commit-  
5 tee of each city and town and to each superintendent of  
6 schools.

1 SECTION 2. The school committee shall annually prepare a  
2 report regarding the public schools, which shall contain any  
3 statements or suggestions relative to their improvement which  
4 the committee thinks desirable. It shall cause said report to  
5 be printed for the use of the residents, in octavo, pamphlet  
6 form, of the size of the annual report of the board of educa-  
7 tion, and shall send two copies thereof to the commissioner of

8 education on or before the last day of April, and shall deposit  
9 one copy in the office of the city or town clerk.

1 SECTION 3. The commissioner of education shall prepare  
2 blanks for the school returns, which shall call for data regard-  
3 ing the enrollment, attendance and membership of the public  
4 schools, the teaching force, the classified expenditures for  
5 schools, and such other data as may be needed to show the  
6 condition of the public schools in the various cities and towns.  
7 He shall annually on or before the fifteenth day of May send  
8 three copies of such blanks to the superintendent of schools  
9 of each city or town. Any superintendent who does not re-  
10 ceive these blanks by the first day of June shall so notify  
11 the commissioner of education. The superintendent of schools  
12 shall fill out these blanks in triplicate, submit them to the  
13 chairman of the school committee for examination and ap-  
14 proval, file one copy, under oath, with the commissioner of  
15 education on or before the thirty-first day of July, one copy  
16 with the chairman of the school committee, and one copy in  
17 the office of the superintendent of schools. If a school return  
18 appears to be incomplete or inaccurate, the commissioner of  
19 education shall so notify the superintendent of schools, who  
20 shall immediately make the necessary corrections.

1 SECTION 4. If the two copies of the annual report of the  
2 school committee, as required by section two of this act, and  
3 the annual school returns of any city or town, as required by  
4 section three of this act, do not reach the office of the com-  
5 missioner of education by the tenth day of August, the com-  
6 missioner of education shall so notify the chairman of the  
7 school committee and the superintendent of schools. If these  
8 reports and returns do not reach the office of the commissioner  
9 of education on or before the first day of September, said city  
10 or town shall be liable to forfeit to the Massachusetts School  
11 Fund the sum of two hundred dollars.

1 SECTION 5. The attendance officers, or the attendance de-  
2 partment, of each city and town shall, under the direction of  
3 the school committee and the superintendent of schools, annu-  
4 ally, by a house to house canvass, ascertain and record the  
5 name, age, and such other information as may be required by  
6 the board of education, of the following persons who reside in  
7 that city or town on September first: —

8 Every child between five and sixteen years of age, and  
9 every minor over sixteen years of age, who does not possess  
10 such ability to read, write, and spell in the English language  
11 as is required for the completion of the fourth grade in the  
12 public schools of that city or town. Such record shall be  
13 completed on or before the fifteenth day of November. A  
14 registration card, as prescribed by the board of education,  
15 shall be kept for every such child. Whoever, having under  
16 his control a minor over five years of age, withholds in-  
17 formation sought by an attendance officer under the provi-  
18 sions of this section, or makes a false statement relative  
19 thereto, shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty  
20 dollars.

1 SECTION 6. Attendance officers shall compare the names  
2 of persons enrolled in the public and private schools of each  
3 city or town with the names of persons recorded as required  
4 by this act, and examine carefully into all cases where persons  
5 of school age are not enrolled in, and attending, some school,  
6 as required by law.

1 SECTION 7. The supervisory officers of all private schools  
2 in the commonwealth shall, within thirty days after the en-  
3 rollment or registration of any pupil five to sixteen years of  
4 age, report the name, age, and residence of the pupil to the  
5 superintendent of schools of the city or town in which the  
6 pupil resides; and whenever such a pupil withdraws from a  
7 private school, the supervisory officer thereof shall, within ten

8 days, notify the superintendent of schools of the city or town  
9 in which the pupil resides.

1 SECTION 8. The superintendent of schools shall ascertain  
2 from the attendance officers or from the registration cards  
3 such information as may be requested for the annual school  
4 returns.

1 SECTION 9. The superintendent of schools shall see that  
2 the teachers daily keep the registers of attendance. No  
3 teacher of a public school shall receive payment for services  
4 for the two weeks preceding the close of any school term, or  
5 preceding the close of his service in that school, until the  
6 register is returned to the superintendent of schools and ap-  
7 proved by him. All registers shall be kept at the schools  
8 during school hours, and shall be open to the inspection of the  
9 school committee, the superintendent of schools, the attend-  
10 ance officers, and the agents of the board of education. A  
11 pupil's name shall be dropped from the membership of the  
12 school when such pupil has been absent for ten consecutive  
13 days, or is known to have withdrawn from the school without  
14 intention of returning; but this provision shall not affect pro-  
15 ceedings against habitual truants, absentees, or school offend-  
16 ers. A pupil who is not present during at least half of a  
17 session shall be marked and counted as absent for that session.

1 SECTION 10. Chapter forty-three of the Revised Laws and  
2 all other acts and parts thereof inconsistent with this act are  
3 hereby repealed.