

SENATE No. 396

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

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

AN ACT

To provide for Instruction of Foreigners in the English Language.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 On and after January first, nineteen hundred and twenty-
2 one, no person who is over twenty-one years of age and less
3 than forty-five years of age shall be employed in any factory,
4 workshop, manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile, estab-
5 lishment, or by any contractor employing more than fifty
6 persons, unless such person can speak, read and write in the
7 English language with proficiency equal to the fourth grade
8 Massachusetts standard, or unless such person attends, for at
9 least three hours in each of forty weeks in each year, a school
10 or class approved by the school authorities of the city or
11 town in which he or she is employed. Every such person
12 shall have in his or her possession a punched card recording
13 attendance. Employers of such persons shall keep a list

14 of them and keep an ink-written, bound record of their
15 school attendance, and when such record shows unwarranted
16 absence of any person subject to this section, such attendance
17 shall be deemed to be irregular and insufficient. Any em-
18 ployer who permits, or whose agents permit, a person to be
19 employed in violation of the provision of this section shall
20 be fined not less than one hundred dollars or more than
21 five hundred dollars for the violation by each such person;
22 said fine to be imposed by court of local jurisdiction and
23 to be paid to such city or town for school purposes.

24 The inspectors of the state board of labor and industries,
25 agents of the board of education and attendance officers
26 may inspect the attendance records in the places of employ-
27 ment mentioned in this act, and shall prosecute violations
28 thereof. Any person shall have the right to prosecute viola-
29 tions of this act.