

HOUSE No. 51

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON, 1 BEACON STREET,
Dec. 16, 1919.

HON. ALBERT P. LANGTRY, *Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House.*

DEAR SIR:— In accordance with chapter 131 of the General Acts of 1919, the Licensing Board for the City of Boston submits herewith recommendations pertaining to a fee for licensing hotels and lodging houses, together with a draft of the bill, for the consideration of the Legislature. This recommendation is embodied in the report of the Licensing Board for the City of Boston for the year 1919.

Very respectfully,

FLETCHER RANNEY,
Chairman.

1846

HOUSE

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

LAND OFFICE

IN

RESPONSE TO A

RESOLUTION

PASSED

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON.

LODGING HOUSES.

Under the True Name Bill, referred to in the preceding paragraph, lodging houses are required to take out licenses where rooms are let to five or more lodgers, and 4,476 such licenses have been issued during the year. Lodging house licenses are issued without any license fee, since the act makes no provision therefor. The Board recommends that for each license a fee of \$2 be charged. This sum could easily be paid by each licensee, and would reimburse the city or town for the expense of issuing the licenses, and would, we believe, direct the attention of the lodging house keeper more particularly to the importance of knowing and obeying the law. Lodging houses licensed under this act have been investigated by the police, complaints have been made to the courts of violations of the law and convictions obtained. Complaints against lodging house keepers have been made to the Board, hearings held, and, wherever the evidence seemed to show that the conduct of the guests was such as to be known by the lodging house keeper, punishment has been inflicted. On the whole, however, the management of lodging houses has been good and the standard of conduct raised, and to this extent the True Name Bill has been a practical success.

