

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1620

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 16, 1920.

The committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred so much of the report of the special Commission on the Necessaries of Life (House, No. 1500) as relates to the establishment of local markets, to reforestation, and to the promotion of agriculture, report the accompanying bill.

For the committee,

JAMES H. WILKINS.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty.

### AN ACT

To provide for the Establishment and Regulation of Public Markets.

1    *Whereas*, It is urgently necessary to reduce the present  
2 high cost of farm products and other food stuffs to the  
3 consumer and to insure to producers a greater proportion  
4 of the prices finally paid by consumers for such products,  
5 — objects likely to be attained by enabling producers  
6 and consumers to deal directly with one another, there-  
7 fore this act is declared to be an emergency law, as neces-  
8 sary for the immediate preservation of the public con-  
9 venience.

*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. All cities and all towns having a popula-  
2 tion of ten thousand persons or more are hereby au-  
3 thorized to provide and maintain public markets with  
4 suitable buildings and grounds. For this purpose any  
5 such city or town may, with the approval of the depart-  
6 ment of agriculture, take or acquire land by purchase or  
7 otherwise, with or without buildings, and may make al-  
8 terations in buildings and construct new buildings on  
9 land so acquired.

1 SECTION 2. Cities and towns which do not maintain  
2 public markets under the provisions of section one hereof  
3 shall upon petition of not less than two per cent of their  
4 citizens designate one or more streets or squares, or parts  
5 thereof, or other public places which shall be suitably  
6 situated and shall be approved by the department of  
7 agriculture, to be used by farmers as public market  
8 places. Petitions under the provisions of this section  
9 shall be filed with the city or town clerk of the city or  
10 town to which the petition applies and it shall be the duty  
11 of said city or town clerk to determine whether the  
12 petition contains a sufficient number of signatures and  
13 whether such signatures are bona fide and he shall when  
14 satisfied that the petition meets the requirements of this  
15 section certify the same to the mayor of the city or the  
16 chairman of the board of selectmen of the town and shall  
17 also notify the commissioner of agriculture that such  
18 petition has been properly filed and the date thereof.

1 SECTION 3. Any city or town which maintains a  
2 public market or market place in accordance with the  
3 provisions of this act may make rules and regulations for  
4 the management and use thereof, subject to the approval  
5 of the commissioner of agriculture, and may prescribe  
6 penalties for their violation. Such city or town shall also  
7 designate a market master who may be a police officer  
8 or other city or town official. The market master shall  
9 have charge of such markets and market places and  
10 conduct them in the interest of their users and patrons,  
11 shall enforce the rules and regulations for such markets  
12 or market places, and shall maintain order within the  
13 market limits.

1 SECTION 4. Any city or town which fails or neglects  
2 to comply with the provisions of sections two and three  
3 hereof for a period longer than sixty days after this act  
4 takes effect shall forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty  
5 dollars for each day during which said non-compliance  
6 continues. The attorney-general shall upon complaint  
7 of the commissioner of agriculture bring action by writ of  
8 mandamus or otherwise to compel such city or town to  
9 comply with the provisions of said sections and he shall  
10 also initiate proper proceedings to collect the sum for-  
11 feited by said city or town under the provisions of this  
12 section.

1 SECTION 5. Chapter one hundred and nineteen of the  
2 General Acts of the year nineteen hundred and fifteen,  
3 chapter seventy-nine of the General Acts of the year  
4 nineteen hundred and sixteen, and acts in amendment  
5 thereof and in addition thereto, are hereby repealed.