

HOUSE No. 1657

House Bill No. 1489 as amended and passed by the House to be engrossed.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty.

AN ACT

To provide for the Better Prevention of Fires in the Commonwealth outside of the Metropolitan Fire Prevention District.

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. Chapter thirty two of the Revised Laws
2 is hereby amended by striking out section five and sub-
3 stituting the following:— *Section 5.* The state fire mar-
4 shal, or such persons as he may designate, the chiefs of
5 fire departments in cities, and the chief engineer, or the
6 chairman of the board of selectmen in towns having no
7 engineers, may, and upon complaint of a person having an
8 interest in any building or premises or property adjacent
9 thereto, shall, at all reasonable hours enter into buildings
10 and upon premises within their jurisdiction and make an
11 investigation as to the existence of conditions likely to

12 cause fire. They shall in writing order such conditions, if
13 existing, to be remedied, and whenever such officers find
14 in any building or upon any premises any accumulation of
15 combustible rubbish, including waste paper, rags, card-
16 board, string, packing material, sawdust, shavings, sticks,
17 waste leather or rubber, broken boxes or barrels or other
18 refuse that is or may become dangerous as a fire menace
19 to such building or premises, they shall in writing order
20 the same to be removed or such conditions to be reme-
21 died. The owner or occupant of any such building or
22 premises may, within twenty-four hours after notice of
23 such order, apply to the state fire marshal, by whom the
24 matter shall forthwith be investigated. Unless he revokes
25 the order, it shall remain in force and be at once obeyed
26 by said owner or occupant, who, if he refuses or neglects
27 to comply therewith, shall be punished by a fine of not
28 less than ten nor more than fifty dollars for each day dur-
29 ing which such neglect or refusal continues.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall not apply to the metropol-
2 itan fire prevention district.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect in cities upon its
2 acceptance by the city council, and in towns upon its ac-
3 ceptance by the town at any town meeting called for the
4 purpose.



