

By Mr. Birmingham of Boston, petition of the Massachusetts Funeral Directors' Association for legislation providing certain qualifications of applicants for licenses as undertakers. Public Health. Jan. 22.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Six.

An Act relative to the Licensing of Undertakers.

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. Section forty-nine of chapter one hundred
2 and fourteen of the General Laws, is hereby amended by
3 adding at the end thereof, the following: — He shall be a
4 citizen of the United States, of good moral character, com-
5 petent to prepare such death certificates and other forms as
6 are required in the ordinary course of the business, and
7 familiar with the precautions to be taken by an under-
8 taker to prevent the spread of communicable diseases,
9 and with the laws of the United States and common-
10 wealth of Massachusetts with respect to the custody of
11 dead bodies, the preparation of such bodies for burial,
12 cremation, and shipment, and the burial, cremation and
13 shipment thereof. He shall maintain within the com-
14 monwealth an undertaking establishment, so located,
15 constructed and equipped as to permit the decent and
16 sanitary handling of dead bodies, and shall maintain
17 suitable equipment for the handling thereof. Nothing
18 herein shall be construed to prevent the renewal of any

19 license as undertaker issued prior to the passage of this
20 act, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 49.* Boards
21 of health shall annually, on or before May first, license
22 a suitable number of undertakers who can read and write
23 the English language. Such license shall be issued upon
24 such terms and conditions as the board of health may
25 prescribe, and may be revoked at any time by the board
26 if its terms or conditions or any requirements of law
27 relative thereto have been violated by the undertaker.
28 An undertaker so licensed may act in any town. He
29 shall be a citizen of the United States, of good moral
30 character, competent to prepare such death certificates
31 and other forms as are required in the ordinary course of
32 the business, and familiar with the precautions to be
33 taken by an undertaker to prevent the spread of com-
34 municable diseases, and with the laws of the United
35 States and commonwealth of Massachusetts with respect
36 to the custody of dead bodies, the preparation of such
37 bodies for burial, cremation, and shipment, and the
38 burial, cremation and shipment thereof. He shall main-
39 tain within the commonwealth an undertaking establish-
40 ment, so located, constructed and equipped as to permit
41 the decent and sanitary handling of dead bodies, and
42 shall maintain suitable equipment for the handling there-
43 of. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the
44 renewal of any license as undertaker issued prior to the
45 passage of this act.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter one hundred and fourteen of the
2 General Laws is hereby further amended by adding at
3 the end thereof the following new section:

4 *Section 51.* Whoever not being licensed under section
5 forty-nine or corresponding provisions of earlier laws,
6 shall, by himself or by his agent or servant, unless such

7 agent or servant is so licensed, engage in the business of
8 an undertaker shall be punished by a fine of not more
9 than one hundred dollars or by imprisonment for not
10 more than two months, or both; but section forty-nine
11 shall not prohibit the employment of apprentices or
12 assistants under the personal supervision of a licensed
13 undertaker.

