

HOUSE No. 316

By Mr. Ward of Plymouth, petition of the Massachusetts Forestry Association that the selectmen of towns be authorized to appoint town forest committees to perform the duties of tree wardens and to have the care of public shade trees and town forests. Towns.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty.

An Act to consolidate Town Agencies which have to do with the Planting and Care of Trees.

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. The selectmen of a town which by
2 vote at an annual town meeting accepts the provisions
3 of this act, shall forthwith appoint a town forest
4 committee, as provided under section twenty-one of
5 chapter forty-five of the General Laws, as amended
6 by chapter two hundred and twelve of the acts of
7 nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, provided the
8 town does not already have a town forest committee,
9 and all the provisions of that section shall apply to
10 said committee.

1 SECTION 2. The town forest committee is hereby
2 charged with the powers and duties conferred and
3 imposed upon the tree warden, and it shall have the

4 care of all the public shade trees of the town, and the
5 management of the town forest. Said committee by
6 vote of the town may also be charged with the powers
7 and duties of any other elective or appointive officer
8 or commission having to do with planting, care and
9 protection of trees on town areas such as parks,
10 commons, cemeteries and such other lands as the
11 town may from time to time place under its control.
12 Any office or commission in the town so replaced by
13 said committee shall cease to exist upon the appoint-
14 ment of the town forest committee.

1 SECTION 3. In the management of the property
2 under its control said committee is hereby author-
3 ized to employ a town forester, and such other assist-
4 ants as it may deem necessary to properly discharge
5 the powers and duties imposed upon it. No financial
6 obligation shall be incurred by the committee until an
7 appropriation therefor has been made by the town.
8 The committee shall make an annual report of its
9 work to the town.

1 SECTION 4. To enable town forest committees to
2 obtain the services of trained foresters, which may
3 not be feasible acting as separate units, two or more
4 such committees may form voluntary forestry unions
5 by which the cost of such services may be shared,
6 by said committees.