

# HOUSE . . . . No. 731

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By Mr. Knowles of Hull (by request), petition of Lewis Castle for legislation to regulate sales of merchandise and appliances for home use by the method known as house to house canvass. Mercantile Affairs.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Five.

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An Act regulating Sales Distributions of Merchandise and Appliances for Use in the Home by the Method commonly known as House to House Canvassing.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 The provisions of this act shall not apply to any
- 2 article which, because of its nature, cannot be
- 3 demonstrated by the salesman on or within the
- 4 premises of the prospective purchaser, or which may
- 5 not for like reasons or because of municipal fire
- 6 control regulations be easily demonstrated within
- 7 the premises of a regularly established merchant
- 8 or store conducted for the distribution of gas and
- 9 electric appliances. This exemption is intended to
- 10 apply to such articles as oil burners or other con-
- 11 trivances for heating the home.
- 12 Foodstuffs are also exempted.
- 13 No article of merchandise or household appliance

14 may be offered or sold by solicitations at the door  
15 or entrance to the premises of any householder,  
16 unless such article is regularly offered for retail dis-  
17 tribution by legitimate merchants or by agents of  
18 gas, light and power companies.

19 Penalty for each violation of such restriction shall  
20 be a fine of one hundred dollars or a term of not  
21 less than one month in jail, to be imposed on the  
22 violator.

23 The hiring or attempted hiring of anyone to  
24 engage in such unlawful solicitation is prohibited  
25 under penalty of a fine of not less than five hun-  
26 dred dollars or not less than a term of three months  
27 in jail.

28 Anyone wishing to canvass the sale of any articles  
29 of merchandise which may lawfully be sold under  
30 these provisions must first procure a license from  
31 the secretary of the commonwealth for which a fee  
32 of five dollars shall be charged.

33 This license must be renewed annually and shall  
34 in no way affect any town or city regulations of  
35 canvassing with each community.