

HOUSE . . . . . No. 38.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 2, 1891.

The committee on the Judiciary, who were instructed to inquire into the expediency of legislation relating to the issuing of certificates of divorce other than by courts having jurisdiction of such matters, report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

HENRY S. DEWEY.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-One.

### AN ACT

Relating to the Unlawful issuing of Certificates of Divorce.

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

1   Whoever, except in compliance with an order  
2 of a court of competent jurisdiction, shall give,  
3 sign or issue any writing purporting to grant a  
4 divorce to persons who are husband and wife  
5 according to the laws of this Commonwealth, or  
6 purporting to be a certificate that a divorce has  
7 been granted to such persons, shall be punished  
8 by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by  
9 imprisonment not exceeding five years, or by both  
10 such fine and imprisonment.



