

SENATE No. 262.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SENATE, April 18, 1894.

The committee on Manufactures, to whom was referred the petition of John F. Fitzgerald for an amendment of the law relating to the inspection of gas meters and the regulation of rates of gas and electric light companies, report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

WILLIAM P. BUCKLEY.

Messrs. BURNHAM and GRAY of the Senate dissent.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-four

AN ACT

Relative to the Inspection of Electric Light Meters.

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 governor shall appoint, by and with
2 the advice and consent of the council, an inspector and
3 an assistant inspector of electric light meters, who shall
4 be electricians, and shall be sworn to the faithful dis-
5 charge of their duties. Unless sooner removed there-
6 from, as herein provided, the inspector and assistant in-
7 spector shall each hold office for three years from the
8 date of his appointment, and until his successor is ap-
9 pointed and qualified; but either or both of said officers
10 may be removed from office by the governor, by and with
11 the advice and consent of the council. Appointments to
12 fill vacancies shall be made in the same manner as an
13 original appointment; but such appointment shall only
14 be for the unexpired term, and until a successor is ap-
15 pointed and qualified.

1 SECT. 2. The salary of the inspector shall be two
2 thousand dollars a year, which shall include such office

3 rent and expenses as shall not be paid out of the fees re-
4 ceived by him ; and the salary of the assistant inspector
5 shall be twelve hundred dollars a year ; and the inspector
6 and assistant inspector shall be paid in addition to their
7 salaries all actual travelling expenses necessarily incurred
8 by them in the performance of their official duties. Said
9 salaries and expenses shall be paid out of the treasury of
10 the Commonwealth, but no larger amount shall be so
11 paid out than is actually paid into the treasury in the
12 manner hereinafter provided.

1 SECT. 3. The inspector shall give bond to the treas-
2 urer of the Commonwealth in the penal sum of five thou-
3 sand dollars for the faithful discharge of the duties of his
4 office, and the assistant inspector shall give bond in the
5 penal sum of two thousand dollars.

1 SECT. 4. The inspector and assistant inspector shall
2 not in any way, directly or indirectly, be interested pecu-
3 niarily in the manufacture or sale of electric light or
4 electric light meters, or of any article or commodity
5 used by electric light companies, or used for any pur-
6 pose connected with the consumption of electric light, or
7 with an electric light company, and shall not give certifi-
8 cates or written opinions to a maker or vendor of any
9 such article or commodity.

1 SECT. 5. The inspector shall have an office in Boston,
2 and shall when required, as hereinafter provided, inspect,
3 examine, prove and ascertain the accuracy of each
4 electric light meter to be used for measuring the quan-
5 tity of electric light to be furnished to or for the use of
6 any person, and shall seal, stamp or mark every such
7 meter, when found to be correct, with some suitable
8 device, which shall be recorded in the office of the secre-

9 tary of the Commonwealth, and with the inspector's
10 name, the date of his inspection, and the number of
11 lamps the meter is calculated to supply. He shall also
12 annually in the month of January report to the general
13 court the number of meters inspected and sealed during
14 the preceding year, with such other information as he
15 may deem expedient. The assistant inspector shall,
16 under the direction of the inspector, aid him in perform-
17 ing the duties of his office.

1 SECT. 6. The amount of the salaries of the inspector
2 and assistant inspector and of their travelling expenses,
3 together with any expenses incurred under section two,
4 shall be annually assessed upon, and paid into the
5 treasury of the Commonwealth by, the several electric
6 light companies in the Commonwealth in amounts propor-
7 tionate to their appraised valuations as determined by
8 the assessors; and in case any such company refuses or
9 neglects, for thirty days after being notified in writing
10 by the treasurer of the Commonwealth, to pay into the
11 treasury the amount required of such company on
12 account of such salaries and expenses, said treasurer
13 shall cause an action to be instituted against such com-
14 pany, in the name and for the benefit of the Common-
15 wealth, for such amount, with interest thereon at the rate
16 of ten per cent. per annum from the time when said
17 notice was given, and for the costs of the action.

1 SECT. 7. The inspector shall provide himself with
2 such apparatus and chemicals as, in his judgment, are
3 required in the performance of his duties under this act.

1 SECT. 8. No meter shall be used for measuring elec-
2 tric light supplied to a consumer unless it is duly sealed
3 and stamped; and for every meter in use and not so

4 sealed and stamped the electric light company supply-
5 ing it shall pay a fine of five dollars to the city or town
6 where the meter is situated.

1 SECT. 9. Whenever the inspector in the performance
2 of the duties of his office finds that any company is
3 using a meter which is inferior or not complete in its con-
4 struction, or faulty in its registration of the amount of
5 light used, he shall immediately order said meter to be
6 removed; and a new meter shall be furnished by said
7 company within thirty days after the date of said order.

1 SECT. 10. Any company failing to comply with the
2 order of the inspector, made under the provisions of the
3 preceding section, shall be fined five dollars per meter
4 for each day's neglect to furnish a new meter after the
5 expiration of said thirty days, and such fine shall inure
6 to the benefit of the city or town where such meter is
7 used.

1 SECT. 11. The provisions of chapter sixty-one of the
2 Public Statutes and all the provisions of law relative to the
3 inspection of illuminating gas and gas meters shall apply
4 to the inspection of electric light meters as far as appli-
5 cable, and as fully and effectually as if the last-named
6 meters were specifically named and included in said chap-
7 ter and laws.

1 SECT. 12. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

