

HOUSE No. 1347.

[House, No 13, as ordered to a third reading.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred.

AN ACT

Relative to the Charges and Service of Companies engaged in the Transmission of Intelligence by Electricity.

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 board of gas and electric
2 light commissioners shall have general super-
3 vision of all companies engaged in the transmis-
4 sion of intelligence by electricity, shall make all
5 necessary investigations thereof, and shall keep
6 themselves informed as to the compliance of the
7 said companies with the provisions of law.

1 SECTION 2. Upon the complaint and applica-
2 tion in writing of the mayor and aldermen of any
3 city, or the selectmen of any town, within which a

4 company engaged in the transmission of intelli-
5 gence by electricity is situated or is doing busi-
6 ness, in respect of the prices charged or of the
7 quality of service rendered by such company, the
8 board shall notify the company of such complaint
9 and application by leaving at its office a copy
10 thereof, and shall thereupon, after due notice, give
11 a public hearing to such petitioner and such com-
12 pany, and after said hearing may make such
13 recommendations as the board deems just and
14 proper concerning any reduction in the charges
15 made by said company; and said board shall recom-
16 mend such further action in the premises as it
17 may deem just and proper.

1 SECTION 3. If twenty customers of any com-
2 pany engaged in the transmission of intelligence
3 by electricity, situated or doing business within
4 the limits of this commonwealth, by a petition in
5 writing request the mayor and aldermen of a city,
6 or the selectmen of a town, to make such com-
7 plaint and application and they decline so to do,
8 they shall endorse upon the petition the reason of
9 such non-compliance and return it to the peti-
10 tioners, who may within ten days thereafter pre-
11 sent it to said board; and the board may thereupon
12 give a public hearing, proceeding, however, in the
13 same manner as if called upon by the mayor or
14 selectmen.

1 SECTION 4. No increase in the rates of com-
2 panies engaged in the transmission of intelligence

3 by electricity shall be made without the previous
4 approval of the board after a public hearing
5 thereon, due notice thereof having been given to
6 all persons interested.

1 SECTION 5. Every company engaged in the
2 transmission of intelligence by electricity shall at
3 all times on request furnish to said board any in-
4 formation required by it concerning the condition,
5 management and operation of its business, and
6 also concerning its rates, charges and the facilities
7 afforded by it to the public.

1 SECTION 6. Any company engaged in the
2 transmission of intelligence by electricity, which
3 shall desire to carry on its business in any city or
4 town in which another company engaged in the
5 same business is situated or doing business, may
6 construct, maintain and operate its lines in such
7 city and town, provided that said board shall,
8 upon the application of such company, and after
9 due notice and hearing of all parties in interest,
10 certify that the public convenience requires the
11 granting of such application: *provided, however,*
12 that no such company shall lay or erect wires
13 over or under the streets, lanes and highways of
14 any city or town without the consent of the
15 mayor and aldermen of the city or the selectmen
16 of the town.

1 SECTION 7. Whenever any company engaged
2 in the transmission of intelligence by electricity

3 violates or neglects in any respect to comply with
4 the provisions of any law, the said board shall
5 give due notice thereof in writing to such corpo-
6 ration and to the attorney-general, who shall take
7 such proceedings thereon as he may deem expe-
8 dient.

1 SECTION 8. Any court having jurisdiction in
2 equity may, in term time or vacation, on the
3 application of said board, enforce, by suitable
4 process or decree in equity, the provisions of this
5 act and the lawful orders of said board.

1 SECTION 9. The said board shall in its annual
2 report to the legislature state all proceedings which
3 have taken place under the provisions of this act
4 during the period covered by the report, together
5 with such suggestions as the board may deem
6 proper concerning the prices charged or the ser-
7 vice rendered by companies engaged in the
8 transmission of intelligence by electricity or con-
9 cerning their condition or their relation to the
10 public.

1 SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon
2 its passage.