

HOUSE . . . . . No. 577.

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[Bill accompanying the petition of Walter L. Sears for legislation to provide for free employment offices by the Commonwealth. Probate and Chancery. Jan. 31.]

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and One.

AN ACT

Relative to Free Employment Offices in Cities.

*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. There shall be established in  
2 each city of the Commonwealth having a popula-  
3 tion in excess of           thousand, a free employ-  
4 ment office.

1 SECTION 2. Each said office shall have a  
2 superintendent, appointed by the governor with  
3 the advice and consent of the council, to hold  
4 office for terms of three years unless sooner re-  
5 moved therefrom, the first of which terms shall

6 begin on the first day of October in the present  
7 year.

1 SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of each city  
2 included under the provisions of this act to pro-  
3 vide, ready for occupancy, on the first day of  
4 October in the present year, suitable apartments  
5 for the purpose named herein, easily accessible to  
6 the public, furnished with proper signs designat-  
7 ing their use, and having separate waiting rooms  
8 for men and women; and thereafter to maintain  
9 the same, including the services of janitor and the  
10 cost of heating and lighting. The city shall also  
11 provide all furniture and office fittings required  
12 for the proper administration of the office. In  
13 case any city shall fail to provide, furnish and  
14 maintain said apartments as herein directed,  
15 then the superintendent, with the approval of  
16 the governor and council first obtained, may  
17 incur all necessary expenses therefor, within  
18 such limits as the governor and council shall  
19 fix, the same to be paid out of the treasury of the  
20 Commonwealth and thereafter recovered from  
21 the city in manner as provided by law for the  
22 recovery of claims due the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 4. The chief of the bureau of  
2 statistics of labor of the Commonwealth shall  
3 prescribe uniform rules respecting the methods  
4 to be observed in administering the offices  
5 herein referred to, in keeping the records  
6 thereof, and respecting the application blanks,

7 forms, record books or other stationery to be  
8 used; and shall provide from time to time,  
9 upon the requisition of the superintendents,  
10 such blanks, forms, record books and other  
11 office stationery and supplies as may be required  
12 for the necessary administration of the offices.  
13 Each superintendent may employ an assistant,  
14 who shall be a woman, and the said chief may au-  
15 thorize the employment of such clerks as may  
16 be required in the conduct of the work, said assist-  
17 ant and clerks to be appointed by the superinten-  
18 dent, subject to the provisions of law relative to  
19 appointments in the civil service of the Common-  
20 wealth. The said chief shall provide for such  
21 interchange of information between the differ-  
22 ent offices respecting the applications for em-  
23 ployment or employees, or for advertising such  
24 information, as he may deem proper, and may  
25 authorize and approve all necessary expenses  
26 connected therewith. He shall also as often as  
27 he may deem necessary, and at least once in  
28 twelve months, personally or through a special  
29 agent of his department, inspect each office for  
30 the purpose of securing uniformity and accuracy  
31 in the methods of keeping the records and aiding  
32 generally in its effective administration; and he  
33 shall, in his annual report to the legislature, sub-  
34 mit such observations upon the condition and effi-  
35 ciency of the service, and such suggestions as to  
36 the most practicable means of improving and ex-  
37 tending it, as his experience and investigation may  
38 warrant.

1 SECTION 5. It shall be the duty of the super-  
2 intendent of every such office, after his appoint-  
3 ment and confirmation, to notify the chief of the  
4 bureau of statistics of labor thereof, and before  
5 opening his office for business, to obtain the  
6 blanks, forms and other supplies, and the rules  
7 hereinbefore referred to; and he shall afterward  
8 conform to such rules and to such suggestions  
9 and modifications of them as he may from time to  
10 time receive from said chief. It shall be his duty  
11 to make reports to the bureau of statistics of labor  
12 as often as required, upon forms to be furnished  
13 by said bureau, of such statistical or other details  
14 of administration as may be required by the chief  
15 thereof. If any superintendent neglects or re-  
16 fuses to comply with the provisions of this section,  
17 or any of them, he shall forfeit for every such in-  
18 stance of neglect or refusal the sum of ten dollars.

1 SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of the  
2 superintendents of said offices to receive appli-  
3 cations from persons desiring employment and  
4 also from persons desiring to employ labor, and  
5 as far as possible aid in supplying the need of  
6 employment out of the places open: *provided,*  
7 *however,* that no place shall be knowingly filled  
8 in any house of ill-fame or place resorted to  
9 for the purpose of prostitution, or in cases  
10 where the vacancies are due to strikes or lock-  
11 outs; and any superintendent of such office  
12 who, personally or through an agent or em-  
13 ployee, sends any woman or girl to enter as

14 aforesaid any house of ill-fame or other place  
15 resorted to for the purpose of prostitution, the  
16 character of which could have been ascertained  
17 by him upon reasonable inquiry, shall for each  
18 offence be punished by a fine of not less than  
19 fifty nor more than one hundred dollars.

1 SECTION 7. No compensation or fee shall,  
2 directly or indirectly, be charged or received  
3 from any person or persons seeking employ-  
4 ment, or any person or persons desiring to  
5 employ labor through any of said offices; and  
6 any superintendent or employee of said offices  
7 who directly or indirectly charges or receives  
8 any compensation or fee from any person  
9 whomsoever in securing employment or em-  
10 ployees for any person or persons, as provided  
11 in this act, shall be punished by a fine not ex-  
12 ceeding fifty dollars and imprisoned in the  
13 house of correction not exceeding thirty days.

1 SECTION 8. All fines imposed by this act  
2 may be recovered in any court of competent  
3 jurisdiction, by information or complaint of the  
4 attorney-general, and shall accrue wholly to the  
5 Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 9. The annual salary of the superin-  
2 tendent in the city of Boston shall be  
3 dollars; and in each of the other cities  
4 dollars. The annual salary of each assistant to  
5 the superintendent shall be eight hundred dollars.

6 Each clerk, whose employment may be authorized  
7 as hereinbefore provided shall be paid at a rate  
8 not exceeding six hundred dollars per annum.  
9 All said salaries and all other expenses in connec-  
10 tion with said offices, except such as are herein-  
11 before expressly provided to be paid by the cities,  
12 shall be paid out of the treasury of the Common-  
13 wealth.

1 SECTION 10. For the expenses required for the  
2 purposes of this act, except the salaries of the  
3 superintendent and assistants and except such ex-  
4 penses as are to be paid by the cities, there shall  
5 be allowed and paid for the fiscal year ending  
6 December thirty-one, eighteen hundred and  
7 niney-nine the sum of

1 SECTION 11. This act shall take effect upon its  
2 passage.