

HOUSE No. 296.

[Bill accompanying the petition of Thomas J. Collins for legislation to authorize certain associations and military companies to parade with firearms. Military Affairs. January 23.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Two.

AN ACT

To authorize Certain Military Companies to parade with
Firearms.

*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. Section one hundred and forty-seven of
2 chapter sixteen of the Revised Laws is hereby amended
3 by inserting after the word "States," in the second line,
4 the words:—independent military companies attached
5 to fraternal organizations, — so as to read as follows:—
6 *Section 147.* No body of men whatsoever, other than
7 the regularly organized corps of the militia, the troops
8 of the United States, independent military companies
9 attached to fraternal organizations and the Ancient and
10 Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, shall maintain
11 an armory or associate themselves together at any time
12 as a company or organization, for drill or parade with
13 firearms, in any city or town of this Commonwealth;

14 nor shall any city or town raise or appropriate any
15 money toward arming, equipping, uniforming or in any
16 way supporting, sustaining or providing drill rooms or
17 armories for any such body of men: *provided*, that asso-
18 ciations wholly composed of soldiers honorably discharged
19 from the service of the United States may parade in pub-
20 lic with arms, upon the reception of any regiments or
21 companies of soldiers returning from said service, and
22 for the purpose of escort duty at the burial of deceased
23 soldiers, having first obtained the written permission so
24 to do of the mayor and aldermen of the cities or select-
25 men of the towns in which they desire to parade; and
26 *provided, further*, that students in educational institu-
27 tions where military science is a prescribed part of the
28 course of instruction may, with the consent of the gov-
29 ernor, drill and parade with firearms in public, under
30 the superintendence of their teachers, and *provided, fur-*
31 *ther*, that any body of men under eighteen years of age
32 may, with the consent of the governor, drill and parade
33 in public with any harmless imitation of firearms which
34 has been approved by the adjutant general, and *provided,*
35 *further*, that regularly organized posts of the grand army
36 of the republic, and regularly organized camps of the
37 legion of Spanish war veterans, may parade color guards
38 of not more than twelve men, armed with firearms, in
39 public at all times. This section shall not be construed
40 to prevent any organization heretofore authorized thereto
41 by law from parading with sidearms, or to prevent any
42 veteran association comprised wholly of past members
43 of the militia of this Commonwealth from maintaining an
44 armory for the use of the organizations of the said militia
45 from which the said veteran association originated.

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