

Bill accompanying the petition of A. L. Eastman, president of the Massachusetts Undertakers' Association, for legislation to provide for regulating the business of undertaking and embalming. Public Health. January 29.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Four.

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AN ACT

Relative to the Business of Undertaking and Embalming.

*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. For the preservation of the public  
2 health, the state board of health shall make and  
3 publish such rules and regulations as it may deem  
4 necessary respecting the treatment, transportation  
5 and burial of the remains of persons who have  
6 died of communicable diseases; and it shall be  
7 the duty of all persons to comply with such rules  
8 and regulations.

1 SECTION 2. Every person who at the time of  
2 the passage of this act is engaged in the business  
3 of undertaking or of embalming human dead  
4 bodies, and shall desire to continue in the busi-

5 ness, shall, before the first day of September in the  
6 year nineteen hundred and four, register his name,  
7 age, place of residence and a statement as to the  
8 length of time in which he has been in the said  
9 business, with the state board of health, who shall  
10 thereupon, and upon the payment of a fee of one  
11 dollar, deliver to him a certificate certifying that  
12 he is a registered undertaker and embalmer.

1 SECTION 3. Whoever, after the first day of  
2 September in the year nineteen hundred and four,  
3 desires to engage in the business of undertaking or  
4 the embalming of human dead bodies or the caring  
5 for and preparing human dead bodies for burial,  
6 transportation or cremation, shall pass an exam-  
7 ination before the state board of health respecting  
8 his knowledge of undertaking, embalming, sanita-  
9 tion, disinfecting, and the like, and shall also pre-  
10 sent satisfactory evidence that he is of good moral  
11 character. If found qualified by the said board  
12 he shall, upon payment of a fee of five dollars,  
13 receive a license authorizing him to act as an  
14 undertaker and embalmer as aforesaid in this  
15 Commonwealth. Such examination shall be held  
16 by the state board of health at such time and  
17 place as they may determine, and it shall be in  
18 writing.

1 SECTION 4. The certificates and licenses herein  
2 authorized shall not be transferable, and may be  
3 revoked at any time by the state board of health  
4 for any cause which it may deem sufficient; and

5 a failure to comply with the laws of the state  
6 or with the regulations of the state board of health  
7 respecting the treatment, transportation or burial  
8 of human dead bodies shall be deemed sufficient  
9 cause.

1 SECTION 5. The said board shall keep on file  
2 a list of all undertakers and embalmers registered  
3 and licensed as aforesaid, and a record of exam-  
4 inations held by them, which shall be open to  
5 public inspection.

1 SECTION 6. Any person who, after the first  
2 day of September in the year nineteen hundred  
3 and four, not being registered and not having a  
4 certificate or license as aforesaid, or whose cer-  
5 tificate or license has been revoked, shall engage  
6 or continue in the business of undertaking or of  
7 embalming human dead bodies, or shall hold him-  
8 self out as being in such business, shall be guilty  
9 of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof  
10 shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty  
11 nor more than one hundred dollars.

1 SECTION 7. Any person who violates any rule  
2 or regulation made and published by the state  
3 board of health in accordance with the provisions  
4 of section one hereof shall be punished by fine or  
5 imprisonment in the discretion of the court.

1 SECTION 8. All fines collected for violation of  
2 this act shall be paid into the treasury of the  
3 Commonwealth.

