

HOUSE . . . . . No. 737.

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Bill accompanying the petition of Silas D. Reed for legislation to prohibit the issuance of false and anonymous political circulars. Election Laws. February 2.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Four.

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AN ACT

To prohibit the Issuance of False and Anonymous  
Political Circulars and Letters.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives  
in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the  
same, as follows:*

1 Chapter eleven, section three hundred and  
2 ninety-eight of the Revised Laws is hereby  
3 amended by striking out in lines four and five the  
4 words "by criticising his personal character or  
5 political action," so that said section when  
6 amended shall read:—

7 *Section 398.* Whoever intentionally writes,  
8 prints, posts or distributes, or causes to be writ-  
9 ten, printed, posted or distributed, a circular or

10 poster which is designed or tends to injure or de-  
11 feat any candidate for nomination or election to  
12 any public office, unless there appears upon such  
13 circular or poster in a conspicuous place either  
14 the names of the chairman and secretary or of  
15 two officers of the political or other organization  
16 issuing the same, or of some voter who is respon-  
17 sible therefor, with his name and residence, and  
18 the street and number thereof, if any, shall be  
19 punished by imprisonment for not more than six  
20 months.