

HOUSE No. 786.

Bill accompanying the petition of Charles P. Nutter and others for legislation to provide for the acquisition by the Commonwealth of rifle ranges. Military Affairs. January 23.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seven.

AN ACT

Relative to Rifle Ranges for the Use of the Militia.

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 governor with the advice and
2 consent of the council is hereby authorized and re-
3 quested to provide, for the use of the militia of the
4 Commonwealth, rifle ranges of such extent and in
5 such situations as the governor and council may
6 determine, and to cause the same to be graded,
7 fenced and provided with such structures and im-
8 provements as may be necessary. Said ranges when
9 completed shall be in charge of the inspector general
10 of small arms practice under the direction of the
11 adjutant-general, and the annual cost of maintain-
12 ing the same shall be paid by the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. The obligation now resting upon cities
2 and towns to provide suitable places for target
3 practice of the volunteer militia by virtue of section
4 one hundred and ten of chapter four hundred and
5 sixty-five of the acts of the year nineteen hundred
6 and five shall cease as to such cities and towns the
7 volunteer militia of which is accommodated by any
8 ranges which may be acquired under this act; but
9 the obligation of cities and towns to provide suit-
10 able places for parade and drill shall continue.

1 SECTION 3. The governor shall have power to
2 take in fee any land and easements for a rifle range,
3 in accordance with the foregoing provisions, and
4 shall cause any such taking to be recorded in the
5 registry of deeds for the county and district in
6 which the land is situated with a description of the
7 land such as is customary in a common conveyance
8 and with a statement that the same was taken under
9 the authority of this act, and upon such recording,
10 the title thereto shall vest in the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 4. The Commonwealth shall pay all dam-
2 ages to property sustained by any person or cor-
3 poration by reason of such taking, and if such per-
4 son or corporation and the Commonwealth fail to
5 agree as to the amount thereof, the same shall be
6 determined by a jury of the superior court in the
7 manner provided by law in the case of land taken
8 for highways; but no suit or petition shall be
9 brought after the expiration of two years from the
10 date of recording of the taking as above provided.