

HOUSE No. 872.

Bill accompanying the petition of Henry K. Hyde and others for legislation to require certain cities and towns to use water meters or other devices for insuring economy in the use of water. Water Supply. January 23.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seven.

AN ACT

To prevent the Waste of Water consumed in Cities and
Towns.

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. All cities and towns which derive any
2 part of their water supply from sources outside their
3 municipal limits, shall after December thirty-one, nine-
4 teen hundred and seven, equip with water meters all water
5 services thereafter installed; shall also thereafter annu-
6 ally equip with water meters five per centum of the water
7 services which were unmetered on December thirty-first,
8 nineteen hundred and seven; and shall also thereafter
9 charge each consumer according to the amount of water
10 used as indicated by the water meter: *providing*, that a

11 minimum rate may be fixed for which the consumer is
12 entitled to a stated quantity of water.

1 SECTION 2. Any city or town failing to comply in any
2 year with the provisions of this act shall forfeit to the
3 treasury of the Commonwealth at the end of the year
4 one per centum of its revenue derived during that year
5 from water service.

1 SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall not apply
2 to the water service for fire purposes only of any city,
3 town, fire district or individual, nor shall such service
4 be taken into consideration in computing unmetered
5 water service. This act shall not affect any contract now
6 existing.

1 SECTION 4. The metropolitan water and sewerage
2 board is hereby authorized to approve kinds or makes of
3 water meters, and no city or town shall after December
4 thirty-one, nineteen hundred and seven, equip any water
5 service with any kind or make of water meters except
6 such kind or make as has been approved by the metro-
7 politan water and sewerage board, and duly certified to
8 as approved by said board.

1 SECTION 5. Any water meter shall after December
2 thirty-one, nineteen hundred and seven be tested by the
3 city or town at the request of any consumer and in his
4 presence if desired. If it is found that the meter is cor-
5 rect the person requesting the inspection shall pay the
6 fees for such inspection and the expense of removing the
7 meter for the purpose of being tested. If it is found that
8 the meter is incorrect, the city or town shall pay such
9 expenses and shall furnish a new meter without charge
10 to the consumer.

1 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon its passage.