

HOUSE No. 456.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JAN. 20, 1908.

Introduced on leave by Mr. Shepherd of Pembroke. Agriculture.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight.

AN ACT

To provide for Protecting Forest or Sprout Lands from
Fire.

*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. That section twenty-four of chapter
2 thirty-two of the Revised Laws is hereby amended
3 by striking out the whole of said section and insert-
4 ing in place thereof the following:— *Section 24.*
5 No fire shall be set in the open air between the first
6 day of April and the first day of November, unless
7 by the written permission of a forest warden or his
8 authorized deputies, with the following provision
9 that fires for purpose of burning debris from fields,
10 gardens and orchards or leaves and brush from

11 yards, may be burned by the owners of property,
12 provided the same is at least fifty feet from other
13 inflammable material, that the air is still and that a
14 ring of spaded or plowed soil two feet wide encircle
15 said fire five feet distant and that in all cases such
16 fire must be at least two hundred feet distant from
17 any forest or sprout lands and properly tended un-
18 til it is out. The forest warden shall cause public
19 notice to be given of the provisions of this section,
20 and shall enforce the same. Whoever violates the
21 provisions of this section shall be punished by a
22 fine of not more than one hundred dollars, to be di-
23 vided equally between the complainant and the town,
24 or by imprisonment for not more than one month,
25 or by both such fine and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 2. That the state forester and his duly
2 authorized employees and the forest wardens and
3 their duly authorized deputies may arrest without a
4 warrant any persons found in the act of unlawfully
5 setting a fire or trespassing on forest property.