

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 1021.

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Bill accompanying the petition of Henry Abrahams for legislation to provide for the extension of the eight hour law, so called, to include officers, watchmen and keepers of state, county and municipal institutions. Labor. January 23.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight.

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### AN ACT

Relative to the Hours of Labor of Laborers, Workmen and Mechanics.

*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 one of chapter five hundred and seventeen of  
2 the acts of the year nineteen hundred and six, as amended  
3 by section one of chapter two hundred and sixty-five of  
4 the acts of the year nineteen hundred and seven, and by  
5 chapter five hundred and seventy of the acts of nineteen  
6 hundred and seven is hereby further amended by adding  
7 after the word " offices " in the last line of the first sec-  
8 tion thereof the following words:— This section shall

9 apply to all officers, keepers and watchmen in state,  
10 county and municipal institutions, — so that said section  
11 shall read as follows: —

12 Eight hours shall constitute a day's work for all  
13 laborers, workmen and mechanics now or hereafter em-  
14 ployed by or on behalf of the Commonwealth, or of any  
15 county therein, or of any city or town which has accepted  
16 the provisions of section twenty of chapter one hundred  
17 and six of the Revised Laws. No laborer, workman or  
18 mechanic so employed shall be requested or required to  
19 work more than eight hours in any one calendar day or  
20 more than forty-eight hours in any one week except in  
21 cases of extraordinary emergency. Only a case of danger  
22 to property, to life, to public safety or to public health  
23 shall be considered a case of extraordinary emergency  
24 within the meaning of this section. Engineers shall be  
25 considered mechanics within the meaning of this act. But  
26 in cases where a weekly half holiday is given the hours  
27 of labor upon the other working days of the week may  
28 be increased sufficiently to make a total of forty-eight  
29 hours for the week's work. Threat or loss of employment,  
30 or threat to obstruct or prevent the obtaining of employ-  
31 ment or threat to refrain from employing in the future  
32 shall be considered requiring within the meaning of this  
33 section. This section shall not apply to persons employed  
34 in any state, county or municipal institution, on the farm,  
35 or in the care of the grounds, in the stable, in the domestic  
36 or kitchen and dining room service, or in storerooms and  
37 offices. This section shall apply to all officers, keepers and  
38 watchmen in state, county and municipal institutions.