

SENATE No. 7.

To accompany the petition of Walter S. Hodgdon and others for legislation to provide for the education of voters in the principles of free government. Printing.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eight.

AN ACT

To provide for Educating the Voters of the Commonwealth
in the Principles of Free Government.

*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. As soon as may be after the passage of
2 this act, the state printer shall print, in ten-point type,
3 upon clear white, hard finished, sixty-pound, book paper,
4 pamphlets containing the declaration of independence,
5 and the constitution of the United States, and the con-
6 stitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, fol-
7 lowed with the historical notes as they annually appear
8 in the manual for the general court, at the expense of
9 the Commonwealth.

1 SECTION 2. Upon the passage of this act the secretary
2 of the Commonwealth shall notify the clerks of the sev-
3 eral cities and towns within the Commonwealth to return
4 to his office, as soon as may be, the total number of poll

5 taxpayers within their several jurisdictions; and, upon
6 the receipt of the full returns, the secretary shall instruct
7 the state printer to publish as many pamphlets as it shall
8 appear by the said returns that there are poll taxpayers
9 in the Commonwealth; and when the pamphlets have
10 been printed, and bound with wires and neatly trimmed,
11 the secretary of the Commonwealth shall forward to the
12 clerks of the several cities and towns a sufficient number
13 of copies to gratuitously furnish each poll taxpayer within
14 their jurisdictions with one copy.

1 SECTION 3. The following notice shall be printed, in
2 ten-point capital type, at the head of each pamphlet,
3 to wit:—

4 Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

5 Special Notice!

6 Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty or the preser-
7 vation of a government of the people by the people and
8 for the people. The constitution is the substantive or
9 standard, adopted by the people to guide their substitutes
10 and agents in the enactment and execution of all laws
11 necessary for a good administration of the Common-
12 wealth; and, therefore, it is absolutely necessary that
13 every voter shall make himself familiar with the funda-
14 mental principles of the constitution. Study and pre-
15 serve this pamphlet.

1 SECTION 4. Upon receipt of the pamphlets the respec-
2 tive clerks shall mail one copy of the same to each poll
3 taxpayer within his jurisdiction; and the transportation
4 and postage expense shall be paid by the respective cities
5 and towns.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall become operative as soon
2 as it shall be legally approved.

