

HOUSE No. 213

Bill accompanying the petition of Alexander Sheldon and another for legislation relative to the marking of goods made in penal institutions. Prisons. January 9.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

AN ACT

Relative to the Marking of Goods made in Penal Institutions.

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 goods, wares and merchandise made by
2 convict labor in any prison, reformatory or jail in this
3 or any other state in which convict labor is employed
4 and imported, brought or introduced in the state of
5 Massachusetts shall, before being exposed for sale, be
6 branded, labelled or marked as hereinafter provided, and
7 shall not be exposed for sale in any place within this
8 state without such brand, label or mark.

1 SECTION 2. The brand, label or mark hereby required
2 shall contain the words "convict made" followed by the
3 year and the name of the prison, reformatory or jail in
4 which it was made, in plain English lettering of the
5 style known as primer Roman capitals. The brand,

6 label or mark shall in all cases where the nature of the
7 article will permit, be placed upon the same, and only
8 where such branding or marking is impossible shall a
9 label be used, and where a label is used it shall be in the
10 form of a paper tag, which shall be attached by wire to
11 each article where the nature of the article will permit,
12 and placed securely upon the box, crate or other cover-
13 ing in which said goods, wares or merchandise may be
14 packed, shipped or exposed for sale. Such brand, mark
15 or label shall be placed upon the outside of and upon
16 the most conspicuous part of the finished article, crate
17 or covering.

1 SECTION 3. It shall not be lawful for any person or
2 persons dealing in this state in any such convict-made
3 goods, wares or merchandise, knowingly to have the
4 same in his or her or their possession for purpose of sale
5 or to offer the same for sale without the brand, label or
6 mark required by this act, or to remove, conceal or
7 deface such brand, mark or label.

1 SECTION 4. Any person violating the provisions of
2 this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon con-
3 viction thereof shall be sentenced to pay a fine not ex-
4 ceeding one thousand dollars nor less than fifty dollars,
5 or be imprisoned for a term not exceeding twelve
6 months or by both fine and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall not apply to goods, wares
2 and merchandise used by the commonwealth, or by any
3 county or municipality therein, or by any public insti-
4 tution.

1 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect on the first day
2 of January, nineteen hundred and twelve.