

SENATE No. 16

To accompany the petition of John Weaver Sherman and others for legislation relative to the hours of labor of women and minors. Labor.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

AN ACT

Relative to the Hours of Employment of Women and Minors.

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. Section twenty-four of chapter one
2 hundred and six of the Revised Laws as amended
3 by chapter four hundred and thirty-five of the acts
4 of the year nineteen hundred and two, and further
5 amended by chapter six hundred and forty-five of
6 the acts of nineteen hundred and eight, is hereby
7 amended by striking out the words:— “ fifty-six ”,
8 wherever they appear therein, and substituting
9 therefor the words:— fifty-four,— and by striking
10 out the words “ fifty-eight ”, in the eleventh line
11 thereof, and substituting therefor the words:—
12 fifty-six,— so that said section shall read as fol-

13 lows:— *Section 24.* No child under eighteen years
14 of age and no woman shall be employed in laboring
15 in a manufacturing or mechanical establishment
16 more than ten hours in any one day, except as here-
17 inafter provided in this section, unless a different
18 apportionment of the hours of labor is made for
19 the sole purpose of making a shorter day's work
20 for one day of the week; and in no case shall the
21 hours of labor exceed fifty-four in a week, except
22 that in any such establishment where the employ-
23 ment is by seasons, the number of such hours in
24 any week may exceed fifty-four but not fifty-six:
25 *provided*, that the total number of such hours in
26 any year shall not exceed an average of fifty-four
27 hours a week for the whole year, excluding Sundays
28 and holidays. Every employer shall post in a con-
29 spicuous place in every room in which such per-
30 sons are employed a printed notice stating the
31 number of hours' work required of them on each
32 day of the week, the hours of commencing and stop-
33 ping work, and the hours when the time allowed
34 for meals begins and ends or, in the case of estab-
35 lishments exempted from the provisions of sections
36 thirty-six and thirty-seven, the time, if any, allowed
37 for meals. The printed forms of such notices shall
38 be provided by the chief of the district police, after
39 approval by the attorney-general. The employment
40 of such person at any time other than as stated
41 in said printed notice shall be deemed a violation
42 of the provisions of this section unless it appears
43 that such employment was to make up time lost on
44 a previous day of the same week in consequence
45 of the stopping of machinery upon which he was
46 employed or dependent for employment; but no

47 stopping of machinery for less than thirty consec-
48 tive minutes shall justify such overtime employ-
49 ment, nor shall such overtime employment be
50 authorized until a written report of the day and
51 hour of its occurrence and its duration is sent to
52 the chief of the district police or to an inspector of
53 factories and public buildings.

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

