

SENATE No. 28

To accompany the petition of Samuel Ross that cities and towns be authorized to appropriate and expend money for homesteads. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eleven.

AN ACT

To authorize Cities and Towns to appropriate and expend Money for Homesteads.

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. Any city or town may appropriate
2 annually a sum not exceeding one dollar for every
3 thousand dollars of the taxable valuation of such
4 city or town for the preceding year and may expend
5 the same for the purchase of land in the suburbs
6 of such city or town and for the erection thereon
7 of dwellings to be occupied as homesteads, as here-
8 inafter provided.

1 SECTION 2. The state treasurer, the bank com-
2 missioner and the tax commissioner shall constitute

3 a board to be known as the homestead board, and
4 who shall perform the duties hereinafter specified.
5 The board shall serve without other compensation
6 than the official salaries of the officers composing
7 it, but it shall be allowed its necessary expenses,
8 to be approved by the governor and council.

1 SECTION 3. No land shall be purchased in any
2 city or town for the purposes of this act, or any
3 dwellings erected thereon for said purposes, with-
4 out the previous approval of the homestead board.
5 The title of any land so purchased shall be vested
6 in the city or town by which the purchase-price is
7 paid until it shall be conveyed by the city or town
8 to the homesteader.

1 SECTION 4. The homestead board shall formu-
2 late rules determining what initial cash payment
3 and what subsequent monthly payments shall be
4 made by any head of a family who desires to be-
5 come the owner and occupant of any dwelling
6 erected on land so purchased, together with such
7 part of the land as may be appurtenant thereto or
8 as the city or town, with the approval of the home-
9 stead board, may include as appurtenant thereto,
10 the object of such rules being to establish the
11 amount and time of payments to be made by the
12 occupant of the homestead in order to become the
13 owner; and the said board shall have the right to
14 adopt all such other rules as it may deem advis-
15 able for the purpose of carrying out the objects of
16 this act, to insure the occupation of the home-
17 steads by industrious and deserving citizens, to
18 protect the interests both of the city or town and

19 of the homesteader, and to determine what repay-
20 ment shall be made to the homesteader in case he
21 should be unable or unwilling to complete the pur-
22 chase of the homestead, or to his widow or heirs in
23 the event of his death before completing the pur-
24 chase. The rules so adopted shall be binding upon
25 the city or town.

1 SECTION 5. All payments on account of the pur-
2 chase-price of any homestead shall be made to the
3 city or town in which the home is located; and
4 when the full purchase price has been paid, the
5 city or town shall execute and deliver to the home-
6 steader a good and sufficient deed, in the usual
7 form, conveying to him and his heirs and assigns
8 a good title to the homestead, free from incum-
9 brances except such reasonable restrictions as may
10 be imposed for the protection of the homestead and
11 of other dwellings in the vicinity.

