

HOUSE No. 1535

Bill accompanying the petition of Freeman Hall and another for legislation relative to ropes or other appliances to be used as fire escapes.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve.

AN ACT

Relative to Ropes and Other Appliances used as Fire Escapes.

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 thirty-three of chapter one
2 hundred and four of the Revised Laws is hereby
3 amended by striking out in line four the words " a
4 knotted rope or better appliance ", and inserting
5 in place thereof the following:— a rope or chain so
6 constructed or fitted with such appliances as shall
7 be approved by the chief of the district police or by
8 the inspector of buildings of the city or town con-
9 cerned,— so as to read as follows:— *Section 33.*
10. The owner, lessee, proprietor or manager of a
11 hotel, which is not otherwise suitably provided with

12 fire escapes, or of a lodging house which contains
13 ten or more rooms above the second story, shall
14 place or cause to be placed a rope or chair so con-
15 structed or fitted with such appliances as shall be
16 approved by the chief of the district police or by
17 the inspector of buildings of the city or town con-
18 cerned, for use as a fire escape in every room of
19 said hotel or lodging house used as a lodging room,
20 except rooms on the ground floor. One end of such
21 rope shall be securely fastened to a suitable iron
22 hook or eye securely screwed into one of the joists
23 or timbers next adjoining the frame of a window of
24 said room, at least five feet from the floor, and shall
25 at all times be kept coiled and exposed to the plain
26 view of the occupant of said room. The coil shall
27 be fastened in such manner as to be easily and
28 quickly loosened and uncoiled. Such rope shall
29 contain knots not more than eighteen inches apart,
30 a loop at the end at least three inches in length,
31 shall not be less than one half inch in diameter and
32 shall be of sufficient length to reach from such win-
33 dow to the ground. Such rope, iron hook or eye and
34 fastenings shall be of sufficient strength to sustain
35 a weight of four hundred pounds, and plain direc-
36 tions for the use of such rope or other appliance
37 shall be printed and posted within six inches of the
38 hook or eye to which the rope is fastened.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.