

HOUSE No. 1644

Bill accompanying the report of the Board of Prison Commissioners relative to the utilization of the products of the labor of prisoners by certain public institutions. Prisons. January 26.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twelve.

AN ACT

To extend and enlarge the Plan of Making Goods for Public Use by the Labor of Prisoners.

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 forty-five of chapter two hundred
2 and twenty-five of the Revised Laws is hereby amended
3 by inserting after the word "institution", in the third
4 line, the words:— offices and departments,— by striking
5 out the word "and", in the third line, and inserting after
6 the word "counties", in the third line, the words:— of
7 the cities and of the towns,— and by striking out all the
8 words between the word "money", in the fifth line, and
9 the word "to", in the seventh line, so that the section
10 shall read as follows:— *Section 45.* The prison commis-
11 sioners shall, as far as possible, cause such articles and
12 materials as are used in the public institutions, offices

13 and departments of the commonwealth, of the several
14 counties, of the cities and of the towns which are estab-
15 lished, maintained or supported, wholly or in part by the
16 appropriation of public money, to be produced by the
17 labor of prisoners in the institutions named in section
18 forty-three.

1 SECTION 2. Section five of chapter four hundred and
2 fourteen of the acts of nineteen hundred and ten is hereby
3 amended by striking out, in the fourth line, the word
4 “and”, which first appears therein; by striking out the
5 words “having a population of forty thousand inhabitants”,
6 in the fourth and fifth lines; by striking out the words
7 “named in this act”, in the seventh and eighth lines, and
8 inserting in place thereof the words: — offices and depart-
9 ments of the commonwealth, of the counties, of the cities
10 and of the towns. — and by inserting after the word
11 “institution”, in the ninth line, the words: — offices
12 or departments, — so that said section shall read as fol-
13 lows: — *Section 5.* In January of each year the prison
14 commissioners shall send to the auditor of the common-
15 wealth, to the auditing and disbursing officers of the
16 several counties, to the auditor and treasurer of each city
17 and town, a list of the articles and materials that can be
18 produced by the labor of prisoners for the use of the pub-
19 lic institutions, offices and departments of the common-
20 wealth, of the counties, of the cities and of the towns. No
21 bill for any such articles or materials purchased for the
22 use of said institutions, offices or departments, otherwise
23 than from a prison or from another institution, shall be
24 allowed or paid unless it is accompanied by a certificate
25 from the prison commissioners showing that the requisi-
26 tion therefor has been made, and that the goods cannot
27 be supplied from the prisons.

1 SECTION 3. Wherever the words "public institution"
2 appears in the law relative to making goods by the labor
3 of prisoners, as contained in chapter two hundred and
4 twenty-five of the Revised Laws, or in chapter four hun-
5 dred and fourteen of the acts of nineteen hundred and
6 ten, it shall be construed to include every office or depart-
7 ment or institution of the commonwealth, of any county,
8 or of any city or town. The words superintendent, offi-
9 cers and principal officers in charge as used in said chap-
10 ter, shall include the heads of all offices and departments.

1 SECTION 4. With the approval of the governor and
2 council the prison commissioners may expend from the
3 prison industries funds such sums as are needed to re-
4 arrange or enlarge the shops for the purpose of carrying
5 out this act. And they may also employ such additional
6 help as the governor and council shall approve to make
7 the needed arrangements with the institutions and de-
8 partments that are concerned in the law relative to making
9 goods for public use.

1 SECTION 5. Any product of the industries that are
2 established for supplying public institutions, offices and
3 departments that is in excess of the demands for such
4 supply, shall be disposed of by public auction at such
5 times as the prison commissioners may designate..

1 SECTION 6. Any officer who wilfully neglects or re-
2 fuses to comply with the terms of this act, or of any pro-
3 vision relative to the purchase of articles and materials
4 from the prison, shall be liable to a penalty of not more
5 than one hundred dollars.

