

# HOUSE . . . . No. 976

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Bill accompanying the petition of John J. Courtney for legislation to require the registration of persons, firms or corporations designing to install wiring or electrical apparatus for light, heat or power. Public Lighting. January 13.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen.

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### AN ACT

Relative to the Registration of Persons, Firms or Corporations designing to install Wiring or Apparatus for Electric Light, Heat or Power Purposes within Buildings in Cities and Towns.

*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. Every person, firm or corporation shall  
2 hereafter, before proceeding to install or to engage or to  
3 continue to engage in the business of installing wires and  
4 appliances for the purpose of carrying or utilizing a cur-  
5 rent of electricity for electric light, heat or power pur-  
6 poses within buildings in cities, in the town of Brookline  
7 and in all other towns of this commonwealth, appear or  
8 cause their representative, who if other than a member  
9 of said firm or corporation shall be a bona fide employe  
10 thereof, to appear before the board as provided for in

11 section four of this act, at some time and place designated  
12 by the said board within a reasonable period after the  
13 appointment of the board provided for in section four of  
14 this act, and shall be examined by said board as to their  
15 skill and practical knowledge of the business of installing  
16 wires and appliances for the purpose of carrying or  
17 utilizing a current of electricity for electric light, heat or  
18 power purposes.

19 No person shall after the passage of this act install  
20 wires or appliances for the purpose of carrying or utiliz-  
21 ing a current of electricity for electric light, heat or power  
22 purposes within buildings in any city or town of this  
23 commonwealth, unless he shall have attained the age of at  
24 least twenty-one years, and shall have worked three years  
25 or more as an apprentice or helper to a journeyman elec-  
26 trician, and shall have appeared before the board as pro-  
27 vided for in section four of this act, at some time or place  
28 designated by the said board within a reasonable period  
29 after the appointment of said board, and shall have been  
30 examined by said board as to his skill and practical  
31 knowledge of installing wires and appliances for the pur-  
32 poses of carrying or utilizing a current of electricity for  
33 electric light, heat or power purposes, and received a  
34 license from said board: *provided, however*, that any per-  
35 son who has worked at the actual construction business  
36 for at least five years previous to the passage of this act,  
37 shall be granted a license without an examination, and  
38 that nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent a  
39 journeyman electrician from being assisted by an appren-  
40 tice or helper.

1 SECTION 2. The examination shall be based upon  
2 such reasonable knowledge and skill in the aforesaid busi-  
3 ness as shall be deemed necessary by the board as pro-

4 vided for in section four of this act. Upon the payment  
5 of a fee of ten dollars for a master's certificate and one  
6 dollar for a journeyman's license and registration at the  
7 office of the aforesaid board mentioned in section four of  
8 this act, said board will issue a certificate of registration  
9 or license to those successfully passing the examination,  
10 specifying the names of the person, firm or corporation  
11 for whose use a certificate or license has been granted,  
12 and also the name of the representative, if any, of such  
13 person, firm or corporation passing the examination re-  
14 quired by this act, authorizing them to install and to  
15 engage in the business of installing wires and appliances  
16 for the purpose of carrying or utilizing a current of elec-  
17 tricity for electric light, heat or power purposes in this  
18 commonwealth. Said certificate or license shall not be  
19 assignable or transferable and shall not be issued to any  
20 person under the age of twenty-one years. All certifi-  
21 cates of registration or license shall expire June thirtieth  
22 each year, but shall be renewed upon the payment of a  
23 fee of one dollar for master, and fifty cents for journey-  
24 men, to the aforesaid board on or before above date. A  
25 copy of such certificate or license shall be kept on file in  
26 the office of said board, and shall be recorded in a book  
27 to be kept for the purpose, which shall be at all times  
28 accessible to the public.

1 SECTION 3. The aforesaid board as described in sec-  
2 tion four of this act shall have full power to revoke or  
3 cancel, for a period not exceeding the balance of the cur-  
4 rent year, for sufficient cause, after a full hearing, of all  
5 parties in interest, the privileges granted by the issue of  
6 any certificate or license under the conditions of this act  
7 as applying within the limits of this commonwealth which  
8 they represent. Any and all persons granted a certificate



9 of registration under this act shall keep the same displayed  
10 in a conspicuous place in the office or place of business  
11 of holder of the certificate, and journeymen's licenses  
12 shall be carried upon the person and exhibited upon re-  
13 quest.

1 SECTION 4. There shall be a board of officers con-  
2 sisting of three persons, which shall be known as the state  
3 board of electrical certificate and appeal of whom at the  
4 time of their appointment, one shall be a city or town  
5 inspector of wires, one shall be a representative of some  
6 fire insurance inspection department, with headquarters  
7 in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, and one shall be  
8 a practical electrician, a citizen of the commonwealth of  
9 Massachusetts, who shall have had at least ten years  
10 experience in the electrical construction work. They shall  
11 be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent  
12 of the council within thirty days of the passage of this  
13 act. Their term of office shall begin on the first day of  
14 July, nineteen hundred and eleven, and they shall hold  
15 one for one year, one for two years, and one for three  
16 years, or until their successors are appointed, and the  
17 governor shall appoint annually hereafter before the first  
18 day of July each year one person who shall have the  
19 specified official qualifications as required for the original  
20 appointees. They shall hold office for three years from  
21 the first day of July next ensuing, providing that termina-  
22 tion of office of any member of the board in the official  
23 position requisite for their appointment to the board shall  
24 likewise terminate membership in the board. The balance  
25 of any unexpired term shall be filled by the governor by  
26 appointment, with the advice and consent of the council,  
27 of a person from some city or town having like official  
28 qualification with relation to this act as the original

29 appointees. The governor shall designate the chairman  
30 of the board and any member of the board may be removed  
31 from office for cause by the governor with the advice and  
32 consent of the council. The compensation of the members  
33 of this board shall not exceed five dollars a day for every  
34 day of actual service, and they shall receive their neces-  
35 sary travelling and contingent expenses actually incurred  
36 in attending to the business of the board. They shall also  
37 have authority to incur such reasonable expenses for  
38 clerical and other purposes consistent with the provisions  
39 of this act as may be approved by the governor and coun-  
40 cil, said compensation and expenses to be paid out of the  
41 treasury of the commonwealth. It shall be their duty to  
42 prepare examination which shall be of uniform require-  
43 ments for all cities and towns for like work and may be  
44 revised from time to time as changing conditions may  
45 warrant.

46 They shall also attend to such other matters relating to  
47 this act consistent with law and not otherwise provided  
48 for, as their duties may require. In case of a request  
49 for a hearing from a person, firm or corporation, from  
50 a town or city from which a member of the board has  
51 been appointed, said member shall have no vote in decid-  
52 ing the matter at issue. The two remaining members of  
53 the board shall select a fourth person from a different  
54 town or city than the one in question, who shall be a like  
55 official as provided for under the provisions of this section  
56 to serve for this particular case.

1 SECTION 5. All fees collected under the provisions of  
2 this act shall be paid into the treasury of the common-  
3 wealth.

1 SECTION 6. Any person, firm or corporation, or any

2 representative, member or officer of such person, firm or  
3 corporation engaging or continuing in the work defined  
4 in this act without having complied with all the pro-  
5 visions thereof shall for each violation thereof be subject  
6 to pay a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than  
7 one hundred dollars in the discretion of the court with  
8 the exception that nothing in this act shall be construed  
9 to in any way affect municipal electric plants, companies  
10 incorporated for the transmission of the intelligence by  
11 electricity, or the transmission of electricity for lighting,  
12 heating or power purposes, electric street railway com-  
13 panies or railroads, upon their own premises.

1 SECTION 7. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with  
2 this act are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage.