

HOUSE No. 1196

Bill accompanying the petition of Earl H. Morton and others for legislation to limit the hours of labor of certain employees of railroad corporations. Railroads. January 14.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirteen.

AN ACT

Relative to the Hours of Labor of Employees of Railroad Corporations.

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. No company operating a railroad over
2 ten miles in length in whole or in part within this com-
3 monwealth shall permit or require any station agent,
4 ticket agent, freight agent or telegraph operator or other
5 station employees having to do with the operation of
6 trains, who has worked in his respective capacity for
7 sixteen consecutive hours within a period of twenty-
8 four consecutive hours, except in case of casualty, to
9 again go on duty or perform any work until he has had
10 at least eight hours' rest. On all lines of railroad
11 operated in this commonwealth nine hours shall con-

12 stitute a day's work for week days and six hours shall
13 constitute a day's work on Sunday, or any less number
14 of hours which shall be agreed upon by such companies
15 and persons, and every hour in excess of such nine hours
16 on week days or six hours on Sundays that any station
17 agent, ticket agent, freight agent or telegraph operator
18 or other station employees having to do with the opera-
19 tion of trains, in the employ of the company who works
20 under the direction of a superior or at the request of the
21 company, shall be required or permitted to work, he
22 shall be paid pro rata for such service in addition to his
23 per diem wages: *provided*, nothing in this act shall be
24 construed to hinder or limit a right of contract for service
25 to be rendered and compensation to be fixed by agree-
26 ment by such employees as constituting a day's work.

1 SECTION 2. Any company which violates or permits
2 to be violated any of the provisions of the preceding
3 section, or any officer, director, president, or foreman,
4 agent or employee who violates or permits to be violated
5 any of the preceding section, shall be guilty of a mis-
6 demeanor, and shall be fined not less than one hundred
7 dollars nor more than one thousand dollars.