

# HOUSE . . . . No. 370

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Bill accompanying the petition of Sanford Bates that five-sixths of the number of jurors may render verdicts in civil actions. Joint Judiciary. January 13.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

### AN ACT

To permit Five Sixths of any Jury in Civil Actions to render a Valid Verdict after Twelve Hours Deliberation.

*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. In all civil actions which shall be tried  
2 by a jury in this commonwealth, after twelve hours de-  
3 liberation, the agreement of five sixths of any jury  
4 therein shall constitute a sufficient, true and valid ver-  
5 dict. The deliberation of the jury shall be deemed to  
6 have commenced when the officer has conducted the jury  
7 to their consultation room and the clerk in charge of the  
8 session shall enter such time in his records.

1 SECTION 2. Where the verdict is agreed to by all the  
2 jurors the foreman only shall sign the verdict; when less

3 than the full number agree on the verdict the same shall  
4 be signed by all the jurors who concur therein and the  
5 clerk of said court shall enter on his minutes the number  
6 of said jurors concurring in such verdict.

1 SECTION 3. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent here-  
2 with are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 4. The provisions of this act shall not apply  
2 to civil causes entered in court before the passage thereof.