

HOUSE No. 1410

Bill accompanying the petition of John A. O'Connell relative to the qualification and authority of the Commissioner of Animal Industry. Agriculture. January 22.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

AN ACT

Relative to the Commissioner of Animal Industry.

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 three of chapter six hundred and
2 eight of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and twelve
3 is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof, the
4 following:— The commissioner of animal industry shall
5 be a veterinarian and registered as such in accordance
6 with the provisions of the acts of the year nineteen hun-
7 dred and three, chapter two hundred and forty-nine,
8 and amendments thereof, — so as to read as follows:—
9 *Section 3.* The governor, with the advice and consent
10 of the council, shall appoint as the head of the said de-
11 partment a commissioner of animal industry, who shall
12 hold office for a term of three years from the date of his

13 appointment and upon the expiration of the term of office
14 of such commissioner, or upon the occurrence of a vacancy
15 in said office, the governor shall appoint a successor for
16 a like term. The commissioner of animal industry shall
17 receive an annual salary of thirty-five hundred dollars
18 and the amount of his necessary expenses, and he may
19 appoint a clerk at an annual salary of twelve hundred
20 dollars. The commissioner of animal industry shall be
21 a veterinarian and registered as such in accordance with
22 the provisions of the acts of the year nineteen hundred
23 and three, chapter two hundred and forty-nine, and
24 amendments thereof.

1 SECTION 2. Section four of chapter six hundred and
2 eight of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and twelve,
3 as amended by chapter three hundred and twenty-nine
4 of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and thirteen,
5 is hereby further amended by striking out the words
6 “and shall have supervision of the matter of contagious
7 diseases among domestic animals in the city of Boston”,
8 so as to read as follows:—*Section 4.* The commis-
9 sioner of animal industry shall have the powers and
10 perform the duties heretofore conferred and imposed
11 upon the board of cattle commissioners, and the chief of
12 the cattle bureau; but no orders or regulations made
13 by him under authority of sections four and seven of
14 chapter ninety of the Revised Laws, or of section seven of
15 the said chapter, as amended by section one of chapter
16 two hundred and ninety-seven of the acts of the year
17 nineteen hundred and eleven shall take effect until ap-
18 proved by the governor and council. The commissioner
19 shall make a written report on or before the tenth day
20 of January of each year to the general court, and fifteen
21 hundred copies of the report shall be printed, of which

22 number six hundred copies may be suitably bound for
23 the use of the commissioner of animal industry.

1 SECTION 3. Section eleven of chapter six hundred
2 and eight of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and
3 twelve is hereby amended by striking out all the words
4 therein, and substituting therefore the following:—
5 *Section 11.* Except in the city of Boston, the board
6 of health of a city or town, any member or agent thereof,
7 or any other person who has knowledge of or reason to
8 suspect the existence of any contagious disease among
9 any domestic animals in this commonwealth, or that any
10 domestic animal is affected with such contagious disease,
11 whether said knowledge is obtained by personal examina-
12 tion or otherwise, shall immediately give notice thereof
13 in writing to the commissioner of animal industry or to
14 an inspector of animals for the city or town where the
15 animal is kept; but in the city of Boston, notice shall be
16 given to the board of health of that city. Whoever fails
17 to give such notice shall be punished by a fine of not
18 more than one hundred dollars. Upon receipt of such
19 knowledge by said inspector, or by the board of health
20 of the city of Boston, he or it shall proceed as provided
21 in sections nineteen to twenty-two, both inclusive. Upon
22 receipt of such notice by the commissioner of animal
23 industry or by the board of health of the city of Boston,
24 he or it shall inspect the case, or cause his or its agents,
25 to inspect such animal and thereafter shall proceed as
26 provided in section six.

1 SECTION 4. Section six of chapter six hundred and
2 eight of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and twelve
3 is amended by striking out at the end of the last sentence,
4 the words “commissioner of animal industry”, and

5 inserting therefore the following words:— civil service
6 commission,—so as to read as follows:—*Section 6.*
7 Section twelve of said chapter ninety, as amended by
8 section one of chapter one hundred and forty-three of
9 the acts of the year nineteen hundred and eleven, is
10 hereby further amended by striking out the words “chief
11 of the cattle bureau of the state board of agriculture”,
12 in the fifth, sixth and eighth lines and inserting in each
13 instance in place thereof the words:— commissioner of
14 animal industry,— and by striking out the last sentence
15 so as to read as follows:— *Section 12.* The mayor and
16 aldermen in cities, except Boston, and the selectmen in
17 towns shall annually, in March, nominate one or more
18 inspectors of animals, and before the first day of April
19 shall send to the commissioner of animal industry, the
20 name, address and occupation of each nominee. Such
21 nominee shall not be appointed until approved by the
22 civil service commission.

1 SECTION 5. The offices of consulting veterinarians,
2 as provided in section eight of chapter six hundred and
3 eight of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and twelve,
4 or prior acts or amendments thereto authorizing the ap-
5 pointment or employment of consulting veterinarians,
6 are hereby abolished.