

# HOUSE . . . . No. 828

---

---

Bill accompanying the petition of the Massachusetts Prison Reform Association for a referendum on the abolition of the death penalty as a punishment for murder. Joint Judiciary. January 15.

---

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen.

### AN ACT

To abolish Capital Punishment and relative to the Punishment for Murder in the Second Degree.

*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 two of chapter two hundred and  
2 seven of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by striking  
3 out all of section two and inserting in place thereof the  
4 following:— *Section 2.* Whoever is guilty of murder in  
5 the first degree shall be punished by imprisonment in  
6 the state prison for life, and whoever is guilty of murder  
7 in the second degree shall be punished by imprisonment  
8 in the state prison for life or for any term of years not  
9 less than twenty-five.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall be referred to the people  
2 for their rejection or approval at the polls, and shall,

3 be voted on at the next annual state election, and shall  
 4 become a law if approved by a majority of the voters  
 5 voting thereon. The act shall be submitted in the  
 6 form of the following question to be placed  
 7 upon the official ballot: "Shall capital punish-  
 8 ment be abolished in this commonwealth?"

<b>YES.</b>	
<b>NO.</b>	

AN ACT

*[Faint, mirrored text from the reverse side of the page is visible through the paper, including the words "AN ACT" and "Shall capital punishment be abolished in this commonwealth?"]*



