

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1114

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Bill accompanying the petition of the Boston Central Labor Union for an amendment of the law relative to school attendance and the employment of minors and to raise the age of compulsory school attendance to sixteen years. Education. January 17.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen.

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### AN ACT

Relative to School Attendance and to the Employment of  
Minors.

*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 one of chapter eighty-one of the  
2 General Acts of the year nineteen hundred and fifteen  
3 is hereby amended by striking out the word "fourteen",  
4 in the first line, and inserting in place thereof the word:  
5 —sixteen, — and by striking out the word "sixteen", in  
6 the second line, and inserting in place thereof the word:  
7 —seventeen, — and by striking out the word "fourth",  
8 in the fifth line, and inserting in place thereof the word:  
9 sixth, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 1.* Every  
10 child between seven and sixteen years of age, every  
11 child under seventeen years of age who does not possess

12 such ability to read, write and spell in the English lan-  
13 guage as is required for the completion of the sixth grade  
14 of the public schools of the city or town in which he  
15 resides, and every child under sixteen years of age who  
16 has not received an employment certificate as provided  
17 in this act and is not engaged in some regular employ-  
18 ment or business for at least six hours per day or has  
19 not the written permission of the superintendent of  
20 schools of the city or town in which he resides to engage  
21 in profitable employment at home, shall attend a public  
22 day school in said city or town or some other day school  
23 approved by the school committee, during the entire  
24 time the public schools are in session, subject to such  
25 exceptions as are provided for in sections four, five and  
26 six of this chapter and in section three of chapter forty-  
27 two of the Revised Laws, as amended by chapter four  
28 hundred and thirty-three of the acts of the year nine-  
29 teen hundred and two, and by chapter five hundred  
30 and thirty-seven of the acts of the year nineteen hundred  
31 and eleven; but such attendance shall not be required  
32 of a child whose physical or mental condition is such as  
33 to render attendance inexpedient or impracticable, or  
34 who is being otherwise instructed in a manner approved  
35 in advance by the superintendent of schools or the  
36 school committee. The superintendent of schools, or  
37 teachers in so far as authorized by said superintendent  
38 or by the school committee, may excuse cases of neces-  
39 sary absence for other causes not exceeding seven day  
40 sessions or fourteen half-day sessions in any period of  
41 six months. For the purposes of this section, school  
42 committees shall approve a private school only when the  
43 instruction in all the studies required by law is in the  
44 English language, and when they are satisfied that such  
45 instruction equals in thoroughness and efficiency, and in

46 the progress made therein, the instruction in the public  
47 schools in the same city or town; but they shall not  
48 refuse to approve a private school on account of the  
49 religious teaching therein.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

