

HOUSE No. 625

By Mr. Barnet of New Bedford, petition of Philip Barnet that punishment of persons guilty of murder in the first degree be imprisonment in State Prison for life in certain instances. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF PERSONS
GUILTY OF MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE BY IMPRISON-
MENT IN STATE PRISON FOR LIFE IN CERTAIN CASES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter two hundred and sixty-five of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out section two,
3 as appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, and in-
4 serting in place thereof the following:—
5 *Section 2.* Whoever is guilty of murder in the first
6 degree shall suffer the punishment of death, unless
7 the jury shall by their verdict, and as a part thereof,
8 upon and after consideration of all the evidence,
9 recommend that the sentence of death be not im-
10 posed, in which case he shall be punished by im-
11 prisonment in the state prison for life; and whoever
12 is guilty of murder in the second degree shall be pun-
13 ished by imprisonment in the state prison for life.

...

...

...

...

...

...

...