

HOUSE No. 2402

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 12, 1939.

The committee on Constitutional Law, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 901) of Philip G. Bowker for legislation to provide for the regulation of broadcasting by radio, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2402).

For the committee,

CHARLES J. INNES.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO SLANDER BY RADIO.

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 seventy-two of the Gen-
2 eral Laws, as amended, is hereby further amended by
3 adding at the end the following: —
4 *Section 104.* Any person who himself or through
5 his agent makes orally by a radio broadcast a state-
6 ment about another person which is slanderous per se,
7 shall be subject to the same punishment as if he had
8 published the same statement in writing, and truth
9 shall be a defence to the same extent as in a civil
10 action for slander.