

---

---

By Mr. Conn of Melrose, petition of Elliot L. Richardson, Vernon R. Farnsworth, Jr., Alan Paul Danovitch, Lloyd E. Conn, Martin A. Linsky and John W. Sears for legislation to provide that accessories before the fact shall be indicted, tried and punished as principals. The Judiciary.

---

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Eight.

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ACCESSORIES BEFORE THE FACT SHALL BE  
INDICTED, TRIED AND PUNISHED AS PRINCIPALS.

*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 274 of the General Laws is hereby amended by  
2 striking out sections 2 and 3 and inserting in place thereof the  
3 following sections:—

4 *Section 2.* Whoever aids in the commission of a felony or is  
5 an accessory thereto before the fact by counselling, hiring or  
6 otherwise procuring such felony to be committed shall be  
7 indicted, tried and punished as a principal.

8 *Section 3.* Whoever counsels, hires or otherwise procures a  
9 felony to be committed may be indicted and convicted either  
10 with the person who directly committed the offense or after  
11 his conviction; and may be indicted and convicted whether  
12 the person who committed the offense has or has not been  
13 convicted or is or is not amenable to justice; and may be  
14 indicted, tried and punished in the same county where the  
15 person who directly committed the offense might be indicted  
16 and tried, although the counselling, hiring or procuring of the  
17 commission of such felony was committed within or without  
18 this commonwealth or on the high seas.

