

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3079

By Mr. Cain of Wilmington, petition of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association for legislation to provide that a police officer may arrest without a warrant any person he observes committing a misdemeanor. The Judiciary.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy.

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A POLICE OFFICER MAY ARREST WITHOUT A WARRANT ANY PERSON HE OBSERVES COMMITTING A MISDEMEANOR.

*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 98 of chapter 41 of the General Laws, as most  
2 recently amended by chapter 688 of the acts of 1957, is  
3 hereby further amended by striking out the fifth sentence,  
4 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:—  
5 Persons so suspected who do not give a satisfactory account  
6 of themselves, persons so assembled and who do not disperse  
7 when ordered, persons making, aiding and abetting in a riot  
8 or disturbance, persons whom a police officer observes commit-  
9 ting a misdemeanor in his presence or whom he has reasonable  
10 cause to believe will commit or has committed a misde-  
11 meanor, may be arrested by the police without a warrant, and  
12 may thereafter be safely kept by imprisonment or otherwise  
13 unless released in the manner provided by law, and be taken  
14 before a district court to be examined and prosecuted.

