

**SENATE . . . . . No. 607**

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By Mr. Bulger, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 607) of William M. Bulger for legislation relative to obtaining of accommodations at hotel and lodging houses by fraud, and certain other matters relative thereto. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE OBTAINING OF ACCOMMODATIONS AT HOTEL AND LODGING HOUSES BY FRAUD, AND CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS RELATIVE THERETO.

*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 12 of chapter 140 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out the entire section, and inserting the  
3 following new section: —

4 *Section 37.* Whoever obtains, at a motel, hotel or  
5 other establishment which provides lodging to transient  
6 guests —

6 establishment which provides lodging to transient guests —

7 (A) lodging, food, or any other item of value, with intent  
8 to defraud the proprietor or manager of such estab-  
9 ment, or

10 (B) credit by the use of false pretenses, shall, if the unpaid  
11 amount of such lodging, food, or other items of value  
12 is \$100 or more, be guilty of a felony and fined not  
13 more than \$3,000 or imprisoned for not less than one  
14 year nor more than three years, or both; or if such  
15 unpaid amount is less than \$100, be guilty of a misde-  
16 meanor and fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned  
17 not more than one year or both.

18 Proof that a person —

19 (A) obtained lodging, food, or any other item of value, or  
20 credit, at a hotel, motel, or other establishment which

21 provides lodging to transient guests and failed to pay in  
22 full upon demand any amount then due for such credit  
23 or item of value, or

24 (B) departed or removed his baggage from a hotel, motel,  
25 or other establishment which provides lodging to tran-  
26 sient guests without the express consent of the propri-  
27 etor or manager of such establishment and without  
28 first paying in full any amount due for food, lodging,  
29 any item of value, or credit, shall be prima facie evi-  
30 dence that the acts specified in clause (A) of para-  
31 graph (1) were committed with fraudulent intent.

32 Whoever registers at a hotel, motel, or other establishment  
33 which provides lodging to transient guests, under any name or  
34 address other than his actual name or address, with intent to  
35 defraud the proprietor or manager of such establishment, shall  
36 be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not more than \$500 or  
37 imprisoned not more than six months, or both.