

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 412.

---

[House No. 328 as amended and passed to be engrossed.]

---

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety.

---

### AN ACT

For the better Protection of Human Life in time of  
Fire and to Provide a Life Line for Fire Escape  
in Hotels.

*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 1. Every owner, lessee, proprietor or  
2 manager of a hotel situated in this Commonwealth  
3 shall, on or before the first day of January in the  
4 year eighteen hundred and ninety-one, place or  
5 cause to be placed a knotted rope or other better  
6 appliance for use as a fire escape in every room  
7 of said hotel used as a lodging room, except  
8 rooms on the ground floor, which knotted rope or  
9 other better appliance shall be securely fastened

10 at one end of it to a suitable iron hook or eye, to  
11 be securely screwed in to one of the joist or tim-  
12 bers next adjoining the frame of the window or  
13 one of the windows of said room, at least five feet  
14 from the floor, which rope shall be at all times  
15 kept coiled and exposed to the plain view of any  
16 occupant of said room, the coil to be fastened in  
17 such manner as to be easily and quickly loosened  
18 and uncoiled; such rope shall contain knots not  
19 more than eighteen inches apart, a loop on the  
20 end at least three inches in length and shall not  
21 be less than one-half inch in diameter and of  
22 sufficient length to reach from such window to  
23 the ground; such rope, iron hook or eye and  
24 fastenings shall be of sufficient strength to sus-  
25 tain a weight of four hundred pounds, and there  
26 shall be plain directions how to use such rope or  
27 other better appliance printed and posted within  
28 six inches of the hook or eye to which the rope  
29 is fastened; *provided, however*, that the owner,  
30 lessee, proprietor or manager of a hotel which is  
31 otherwise suitably provided with fire escape for  
32 the protection of human life in case of fire shall  
33 not be required to comply with the foregoing  
34 provisions.

1     SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of the inspector  
2 of buildings of every city or town in this Com-  
3 monwealth, or if there be no such officer, then of  
4 the chief engineer or the officer performing the  
5 duty of chief engineer of the fire department of  
6 every city or town in this Commonwealth, in the

7 month of May of each year, to inspect every room  
8 of every hotel in the city or town in which he is  
9 performing the duty of chief engineer, to ascertain  
10 if the provisions of this act are complied with and  
11 report the condition of the ropes or other better  
12 appliance to the chief of the district police.

1 SECT. 3. Any person violating any of the  
2 provisions of this act shall be guilty of a mis-  
3 demeanor and punishable by a fine of not more  
4 than five hundred dollars, or imprisonment in the  
5 county jail or house of correction not more than  
6 six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

1 SECT. 4. This act shall take effect January  
2 first, eighteen hundred and ninety-one.

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 23, 1890.

Passed to be engrossed.

Sent up for concurrence.

EDWARD A. McLAUGHLIN, *Clerk.*

