

HOUSE No. 851.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 16, 1899.

The committee on Bills in the Third Reading, to whom was referred the Bill relative to the licensing of gasfitters and persons who install or repair gas fixtures, and to the supervision of the business of gas fitting and the installation and repair of gas fixtures in the town of Brookline, report recommending the substitution of the accompanying bill.

For the Committee,

ALBERT S. APSEY.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-nine.

AN ACT

Relative to the Licensing of Gas-fitters and the Supervision of Gas-fitting in the Town of Brookline.

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. No person, firm or corporation
2 shall engage in the business of gas-fitting or the
3 installation or repair of gas fixtures in buildings
4 in the town of Brookline, and no journeyman shall
5 work at said business in the said town unless li-
6 censed therefor in accordance with the provisions
7 of this act; but this section shall not take effect
8 until ninety days after the acceptance of this act
9 by said town.

10 The word "journeyman," as used herein, means
11 one who personally does any gas-fitting, or any
12 work in connection therewith, which would be
13 subject to inspection under this act.

1 SECTION 2. There shall be a board of three
2 examiners selected as follows: The first, a mem-

3 ber of the board of health, designated by said
4 board; the second, the inspector of buildings in
5 said town; the third, a person holding no other
6 office, to be appointed by the board of health: he
7 shall be a practical gas-fitter of at least five years'
8 continuous experience, lasting up to the time of
9 his appointment. The first and third members
10 shall be chosen within thirty days after the ac-
11 ceptance of this act, for a term ending on the
12 first day of May following their appointment,
13 and thereafter annually. The first and second
14 members shall receive no compensation. The
15 third member shall be paid for his services by the
16 said town at a rate not exceeding five dollars for
17 each day of actual service, and at the same rate
18 for any fraction of a day. The said third mem-
19 ber shall be entitled to receive a license under
20 this act without fee or examination. As soon as
21 may be after their appointment the members of
22 the said board shall organize by the selection of a
23 chairman and clerk; and shall designate times
24 and places for the examination of applicants for
25 licenses.

1 SECTION 3. Any person desiring to engage
2 in the said business, or any person desiring to
3 labor at it as a journeyman, shall make applica-
4 tion to the inspector of buildings for a license,
5 and he shall thereupon be examined as to his
6 qualifications by the said board, such examination
7 to include some kind of practical test; and if he
8 be found competent the said board shall so cer-

9 tify to the said inspector, and the said inspector
10 shall issue a license to him: *provided*, that he first
11 registers with the said inspector his name, resi-
12 dence, place of business and license number, and
13 pays the license fee.

14 In case of a firm or corporation the examina-
15 tion and licensing of one member of the firm, or
16 the manager of the corporation, shall satisfy the
17 requirements of this act. A license may at any
18 time be revoked by the said board. It shall con-
19 tinue in force until so revoked, but it shall not be
20 transferable.

1 SECTION 4. The fee for a license under this
2 act shall be two dollars for any employer, firm or
3 corporation, and fifty cents for a journeyman.

1 SECTION 5. Any person, firm or corporation
2 holding a license under chapter two hundred and
3 sixty-five of the acts of the year eighteen hun-
4 dred and ninety-seven shall be entitled to receive
5 a license under this act, without fee or examina-
6 tion, upon registering with the inspector of build-
7 ings as provided in section three.

1 SECTION 6. The board of health of said town
2 shall appoint as many inspectors of gas fitting
3 and gas fixture installation in buildings as they
4 may deem necessary from time to time. The
5 compensation of the inspectors shall be deter-
6 mined by said board of health, subject to the
7 approval of the town, and such inspectors shall
8 hold office until removed by the board of health.

9 Said inspectors shall inspect all new work re-
10 lating to gas piping and to gas fittings and fix-
11 tures in new and old buildings within said town,
12 and shall report to the board of health all viola-
13 tions of this act or of any act, by-law or regula-
14 tion relating to gas fixtures which now exists or
15 may hereafter be enacted or made, and they shall
16 also perform such other appropriate duties as
17 may be required of them by said board of health.
18 No inspectors shall inspect or approve any work
19 done by himself or by any person by whom he is
20 employed or who is employed by him.

1 SECTION 7. In new work done after the ac-
2 ceptance of this act in said town, gas pipes shall
3 not be covered or concealed from view until they
4 have been approved by one of said inspectors,
5 who shall examine the same within two working
6 days after notice that such pipes are ready for
7 inspection; and such new pipes shall not be used
8 until the same and the fixtures attached thereto
9 have been tested by the person doing the work in
10 the presence of one or more of said inspectors, by
11 some test approved by said inspector or inspectors.

1 SECTION 8. Every person licensed under the
2 provisions of this act shall display his license
3 number conspicuously at his place of business.

1 SECTION 9. After the acceptance of this act
2 as hereinafter provided, no building in said town
3 shall be piped or fitted for gas, and no gas fix-

4 tures shall be placed in any building, nor shall
5 any repairs be made upon any such piping or fix-
6 tures, unless a permit shall be granted therefor
7 by the inspector of buildings. Applications for
8 such permits shall be made only by persons
9 licensed as aforesaid, and they shall contain a full
10 statement of the situation of the building, the
11 name and address of the owner, of the work to be
12 done and the materials to be used; and, if the
13 inspector so requires, a plan of the work contem-
14 plated. It shall be lawful, however, for persons
15 licensed as aforesaid to make necessary repairs
16 without a permit, in the case of leaks or breaks
17 requiring immediate attention; but in such cases
18 a report signed by the person making the repairs
19 shall be filed in the office of the inspector of
20 buildings within forty-eight hours after the repairs
21 were made, stating the nature of the leak or break,
22 and, in detail, the extent of the repairs made and
23 the manner of making the same.

24 All materials used and work performed under
25 the provisions of this section shall be subject to
26 such regulations as now exist or may hereafter be
27 made by the board of health of said town.

28 Nothing in this section shall apply to the taking
29 off or replacing of the ordinary gas burner or tip.

1 SECTION 10. No gas pipe which may be put
2 in any building in said town shall be let into the
3 timbers, beams, or girders unless the same is
4 placed within thirty-six inches of the end of said
5 timber, beam or girder, and in no building shall

6 the pipes be let into the timbers, beams or girders
7 more than two inches in depth. No pipes from
8 which fixtures are to be suspended shall be run
9 on the under side of the timbers, except when the
10 boarding runs diagonally with respect to said
11 timbers, in which case they shall be firmly secured
12 to the timbers. No person shall disconnect or
13 remove any gas meter except the representative
14 of the gas company owning such meter.

1 SECTION 11. All gas brackets shall be placed
2 at least three feet below any ceiling or wood
3 work, unless the same is properly protected by a
4 shield, in which case the distance shall not be less
5 than eighteen inches. Nothing in this act shall
6 be construed to affect the operations of any gas
7 company upon its own premises, or with respect
8 to its mains or service pipes.

1 SECTION 12. The board of health of said town
2 may, by said inspectors, from time to time, as it
3 deems proper, inspect the gas fixtures and appli-
4 ances in any building, and shall make such regu-
5 lations relating thereto as it deems that the public
6 health and safety require, and the owner of such
7 building shall comply with such regulations.

1 SECTION 13. Any person violating any pro-
2 vision of this act or any ordinance, by-law, rule
3 or regulation made thereunder, shall be deemed
4 guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be subject to
5 a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for every

6 such violation; and if such person has received a
7 license under this act his license may be revoked
8 by the board of health of said town; and if the
9 license is revoked no new license shall be issued
10 to him until the expiration of one year from the
11 date of such revocation.

1 SECTION 14. The said inspector of buildings
2 shall annually make a full report in detail to said
3 town of all his proceedings under this act during
4 the year, and shall include therein a report of the
5 board of examiners appointed under this act,
6 giving their proceedings during the year.

1 SECTION 15. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage so far as to allow said town to vote upon
3 the acceptance of the same, but it shall not take
4 full effect until it has been accepted by a vote of
5 two-thirds of the voters of said town voting
6 thereon at a meeting duly called for the purpose.