

HOUSE No. 1313

By Mr. Harding of Dedham, petition of James Hugh Powers for legislation to establish limited parental liability in certain cases of wrongful acts by minors. Legal Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIMITED PARENTAL LIABILITY IN CERTAIN CASES OF WRONGFUL ACTS BY MINORS.

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. The parents or guardian of any minor
2 child or ward who unlawfully destroys or damages
3 public or private property within the commonwealth,
4 shall be responsible in damages to the owner or
5 owners of the said property for the damage done or
6 the destruction inflicted on said property; provided,
7 that the amount of damages to be paid to the said
8 owner or owners shall not exceed the cost of replacing
9 or repairing the properties damaged; and provided,
10 further, that the total amount of the said damages
11 shall not exceed two thousand dollars.

1 SECTION 2. The parents or guardian of any minor
2 child or ward who unlawfully inflicts or causes to be
3 inflicted a physical injury upon another person, shall

4 be responsible in damages to the injured person for
5 the injury or injuries which he or she has sustained
6 and the consequences thereof; provided, that the
7 amount of damages to be paid to the said person shall
8 not exceed two thousand dollars.

1 SECTION 3. The courts of the commonwealth shall
2 have the power to determine a reasonable period of
3 time within which damages assessed under this act
4 shall be paid. If any person ordered by the courts to
5 pay damages under this act shall fail to do so within
6 the time specified by the courts, he shall be punished
7 by a fine of fifty dollars for each month that he or
8 she is in arrears.