

SENATE No. 37.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN SENATE, February 15, 1876.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the Order instructing them to inquire whether any further legislation is desirable to secure the better education of children employed in manufacturing and mercantile establishments, have considered the subject and report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

JOHN SARGENT.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Six.

AN ACT

Relating to the employment of Children, and Regulations respecting them.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECT. 1. No child under the age of ten years
2 shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechani-
3 cal or mercantile establishment in this Common-
4 wealth; and no child under the age of fourteen
5 years shall be so employed, unless during the year
6 next preceding such employment he has attended
7 some public or private day school, under teachers
8 approved by the school committee of the place
9 where such school is kept, at least twenty weeks,
10 which time may be divided into two terms, each of
11 ten consecutive weeks, so far as the arrangement
12 of school terms will allow; nor shall such employ-
13 ment continue unless such child shall attend school

14 as herein provided in each and every year; and no
15 child shall be then employed who does not present
16 a certificate, made by or under the direction of the
17 school committee, of his compliance with the re-
18 quirements of this act: *provided, however*, that
19 a regular attendance during the continuance of
20 such employment, in any public or private day-
21 school, known as a half-time school, may be ac-
22 cepted by the school committee as a substitute for
23 the attendance herein required.

1 SECT. 2. Every owner, superintendent or over-
2 seer in any establishment above named, who
3 employs, or permits to be employed, any child con-
4 trary to the provisions of this act, and every
5 parent or guardian who permits such employment,
6 shall, for such offence, forfeit a sum not less than
7 twenty nor more than fifty dollars, to the use of
8 the public schools of the city or town.

1 SECT. 3. The truant officers shall, at least once
2 in every school term, and as often as the school
3 committee require, visit the establishments desig-
4 nated by this act, in their several cities and towns,
5 and inquire into the situation of the children em-
6 ployed therein, ascertain whether the provisions of
7 this act are duly observed, and under the direc-
8 tion of the school committee, prosecute in the
9 name of the city or town for all violations thereof,
10 in any court of competent jurisdiction, and for this
11 purpose may serve all legal processes issued by the
12 courts in pursuance of this act, but shall not re-
13 ceive any fees therefor.

1 SECT. 4. Chapter two hundred and eighty-five
2 of the acts of eighteen hundred and sixty-seven is
3 hereby repealed.

1 SECT. 5. This act shall take effect sixty days
2 from its passage.