

HOUSE No. 933

Bill accompanying the petition of J. Frank Chase for better moral protection for working women and girls under twenty-one years of age. Joint Judiciary. January 15.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

AN ACT

To provide a Criminal Remedy for the Seduction or Coercion to Immorality of Working Women or Girls under Twenty-one Years of Age.

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. Whoever seduces or coerces by threats,
2 acts of oppression, slander, or otherwise, with intent
3 thereby to have unlawful sexual intercourse with, or
4 whoever has unlawful sexual intercourse with any woman
5 or girl previously chaste, and under twenty-one years
6 of age, who is in his employment or who, being in a
7 common but not necessarily similar employment with
8 him, is, in respect to her employment or work, under
9 or in any way subject to his control or direction, or
10 receives her wages or salary directly or indirectly from
11 him, shall be punished by imprisonment in the house

12 of correction for not more than two years or by a fine
13 of not more than five hundred dollars, or by both such
14 fine and imprisonment.

1 SECTION 2. In the trial of a case under this act, the
2 woman or girl shall be presumed to be previously chaste
3 until the contrary is proven.

1 SECTION 3. Proof that a woman or girl has, on
2 previous occasions, had unlawful sexual intercourse
3 with the accused, shall not be deemed to be evidence
4 that she was not previously chaste.

1 SECTION 4. A person shall not be convicted under
2 this act upon the evidence of one witness only, unless
3 his testimony is corroborated in a material particular,
4 and prosecution for a violation of the same shall not be
5 commenced more than one year after the commission
6 of the crime.