

HOUSE No. 1222

Bill accompanying the petition of Katherine L. Edwards relative to prescribing rules for the use of the American flag. Legal Affairs. January 17.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

AN ACT

To prescribe Rules for the Use of the American Flag.

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 national flag shall be displayed in
2 every court of justice in this state while the court is in
3 session.

1 SECTION 2. In the display of the flag on public build-
2 ings or otherwise in this commonwealth the following
3 rules shall be observed: The flag shall be hoisted at eight
4 o'clock in the morning and lowered slowly at sunset
5 when the flag is used upon any stage or at a public meet-
6 ing, it shall be placed on the right of the speakers or per-
7 formers; when the national flag and the state flag are
8 used together, the national flag shall be on the right;
9 when the flag is displayed at half mast, it shall be lowered

10 to that position from the top of the staff, and shall be
11 hoisted to the top before it is finally lowered; every flag
12 shall reach the top of the pole on which it is hung; the
13 flag shall be displayed on all public buildings on all holi-
14 days except on Christmas day, and on the fourteenth day
15 of June; the flag shall not be fastened to the side of a
16 building, platform or scaffold, nor shall it be used as
17 bunting or for purposes of draping; nor shall it be used
18 to cover any bench, table or box; when used at a funeral
19 upon a bier or casket, the flag shall not be permitted to
20 touch the ground.

1 SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of all teachers of
2 primary and grammar schools to instruct the children in
3 the proper and respectful use of the flag.

1 SECTION 4. Violation of the provisions of this act
2 shall be punished by a fine of not less than three nor
3 more than one hundred dollars.

1 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect ninety days after
2 its passage.