

HOUSE No. 337.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 25, 1871.

The Committee on Parishes and Religious Societies, to whom was referred the petition of Franklin Patch relating to the Lexington Ministerial Fund, and of the Hancock Congregational Society in aid of the same, report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

M. L. RICHARDSON.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

To provide for the further Distribution of the Income of the Lexington Ministerial Fund.

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. The treasurer of the Hancock Congrega-
2 tional Society, a religious society duly organized in
3 the town of Lexington, shall on or before the first
4 day of June in the year eighteen hundred and sev-
5 enty-one, and on or before the tenth day of May in
6 each succeeding tenth year thereafter, make a return
7 to the trustees of the Lexington Ministerial Fund of
8 the names of those persons who are members of said
9 society on the first day of May preceding each return.

1 SECT. 2. Whenever this act shall be accepted by
2 the First Congregational Society, the First Baptist

3 Society, and The Church of the Redeemer, religious
4 societies in said town, at meetings duly called of said
5 societies respectively, said Hancock Congregational
6 Society shall be admitted to share in the income of
7 said fund in the same manner as said other societies ;
8 and thereafter the income of said fund shall be yearly
9 divided between said First Congregational Society,
10 First Baptist Society, The Church of the Redeemer
11 and said Hancock Congregational Society in the pro-
12 portion in which the aggregate amount of the real
13 and personal estate of the members of each society
14 bears to the aggregate amount of the real and per-
15 sonal estate of the members of said four societies on
16 the first day of May in each preceding decennial year,
17 beginning with the year eighteen hundred and sev-
18 enty-one, according to the valuation thereof made by
19 the assessors of said town.

1 SECT. 3. The portions of said income received by
2 the treasurers of said religious societies shall be ex-
3 pended annually for the support of public worship in
4 said societies respectively.

1 SECT. 4. Whenever after the acceptance of this
2 act by said societies as herein provided for, vacancies
3 shall occur in the board of trustees of said fund, they
4 shall be filled in the order and method provided for
5 in the seventh section of the one hundred and twelfth
6 chapter of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and
7 forty-five, except the said Hancock Congregational
8 Society shall be entitled to choose a trustee in its
9 order.

1 SECT. 5. No person shall at any time be a mem-
2 ber of more than one of said societies.

1 SECT. 6. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
2 with the foregoing provisions are hereby repealed.

1 SECT. 7. This act shall take effect from and after
2 its passage.