

SENATE . . . No. 269.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SENATE, May 24, 1887.

The Committee on Parishes and Religious Societies, to whom was referred the Order amending chapter 38 of the Public Statutes relating to parishes and religious societies, report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

JOHN J. CURRIER.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven.

AN ACT

To provide for the Incorporation of Churches.

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. Any church now existing or that
2 may be hereafter organized in this Commonwealth
3 may be incorporated according to the provisions
4 of this act.

1 SECT. 2. A notice signed by one or more of
2 the members of such a church, stating the object,
3 time and place of the meeting for the incorpora-
4 tion of the church, and the first election of officers
5 under the provisions of this act, shall be posted
6 in a conspicuous place near one of the principal
7 entrances of the usual place of meeting of said
8 church at least fifteen days previous to the time
9 for such meeting.

1 SECT. 3. The resident members of such church
2 of twenty-one years of age and upwards may

3 assemble at their place of worship and by ballot
4 elect a moderator, clerk, treasurer, a standing
5 committee of not less than three nor more than
6 seven members, and such other officers as they
7 may deem necessary. The clerk shall be sworn.

1 SECT. 4. The church may prescribe by its by-
2 laws the manner in which and the officers and
3 agents by whom the purposes of its incorporation
4 may be carried out. When no provision is made
5 by any vote or by-law of the church for calling
6 meetings, they shall be called in such manner as
7 the standing committee may direct.

1 SECT. 5. The standing committee so elected
2 shall certify the organization of such a church to
3 the commissioner of corporations, who, with the
4 secretary of the Commonwealth, upon payment
5 of a fee of five dollars to the secretary, shall per-
6 form the same duties and with the same legal
7 effect as in the case of corporations organized
8 under chapter one hundred and fifteen of the
9 Public Statutes.

1 SECT. 6. None but members of such a church
2 shall be members of any such corporation, and
3 none but resident members of such church of
4 twenty-one years of age and upwards shall vote.

1 SECT. 7. The deacons of any such church,
2 holding real or personal estate under the provi-
3 sions of chapter thirty-nine of the Public Statutes,
4 may convey any such estate to the church of

5 which they are deacons, if incorporated under
6 the provisions of this act, and such estate shall
7 thereafter be held by the church subject to the
8 same uses and trusts as when held by said
9 deacons.

1 SECT. 8. Any religious society connected with
2 a church incorporated under the provisions of
3 this act may at any meeting, in the call for which
4 notice has been given of the object of the meet-
5 ing, by a three-fourths vote authorize one or
6 more persons in its name and behalf to convey to
7 such church any real or personal estate belonging
8 to it, and such estate shall thereafter be held by
9 the church subject to the same uses and trusts as
10 when held by said religious society.