

SENATE....No. 90.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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IN SENATE, March 23, 1857.

The Committee on Towns, who were instructed by an Order of the House to inquire into the expediency of requiring towns to furnish Safes for the safe keeping of their records and valuable papers, report the accompanying Bill.

Per order of Committee,

EBEN S. POOR, *Chairman.*

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-  
Seven.

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### AN ACT

For the better Preservation of Municipal Records.

*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.    It shall be the duty of the city govern-  
2      ment of the several cities, and of the selectmen of the  
3      several towns in this Commonwealth, to provide at  
4      the expense of such cities or towns, a fire proof safe  
5      of ample size, for the safe preservation of books of  
6      record or registry and other important documents or  
7      papers belonging to such cities or towns respectively ;  
8      and it shall be the duty of the city clerk of each city,  
9      and of the town clerk of each town, to keep all such  
10     books of record or registry and such important papers

11 and documents in the safe so provided, at all times,  
12 except when they shall be wanted for use.

1   SECT. 2. For every month that any city or town  
2 shall neglect to fulfil the requirements of this act,  
3 they shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars; and  
4 any city clerk or town clerk failing to comply with  
5 the provisions of this act shall be subject to a fine of  
6 ten dollars; one-half of all fines paid for violation of  
7 this act shall inure to the complainant, and one-half  
8 to the Commonwealth.

1   SECT. 3. This act shall go into effect on the first  
2 day of October next.

