

HOUSE No. 294.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 8, 1873.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the Report of the Board of Education, also a "Bill in addition to an Act concerning truant children and absentees from school," having considered the same, report the accompanying Bill.

Per order,

GEO. A. MARDEN.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

Concerning Truant Children and Absentees from
School.

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. Each city and town shall make all
2 needful provisions and arrangements concerning
3 habitual truants and children between the ages of
4 seven and fifteen years who may be found wan-
5 dering about in the streets or public places of such
6 city or town, having no lawful occupation or busi-
7 ness, not attending school, and growing up in
8 ignorance: also, such by-laws as shall be most
9 conducive to the welfare of such children, and to
10 the good order of such city or town; and shall
11 provide suitable places for the confinement, dis-
12 cipline and instruction of such children: *provided,*
13 that said by-laws shall be approved by the supe-
14 rior court, or a justice thereof, or by the judge of
15 probate of the county.

1 SECT. 2. The school committee of the several
2 cities and towns shall appoint two or more suitable
3 persons, to be designated as truant officers, who
4 shall, under the direction of said committee, in-
5 quire into all cases arising under such by-laws,
6 and shall alone be authorized, in case of violation
7 thereof, to make complaint and carry into execu-
8 tion the judgments thereon.

1 SECT. 3. Any minor convicted under such by-
2 law of being an habitual truant, or of wandering
3 about in the streets and public places of any city
4 or town, having no lawful employment or business,
5 not attending school and growing up in ignorance,
6 shall be committed to any institution of instruction
7 or suitable situation provided for the purpose
8 under the authority of section one, or by law, for
9 such time, not exceeding two years, as the justice
10 or court having jurisdiction may determine. Any
11 minor so committed may, upon proof of amend-
12 ment, or for other sufficient cause shown upon a
13 hearing of the case, be discharged by such justice
14 or court.

1 SECT. 4 Justices of police or district courts,
2 trial justices of juvenile offenders, and judges of
3 probate shall have jurisdiction within their respect-
4 ive counties, of the offences described in this act.

1 SECT. 5. When three or more cities or towns
2 in any county shall so require, the county commis-
3 sioners shall establish at convenient places therein,
4 other than the jail or house of correction, at the
5 expense of the county, truant schools, for the con-

6 finement, discipline and instruction of minor chil-
7 dren convicted under the provisions of this act, and
8 shall make suitable provisions for the government
9 of said schools, and for the appointment of proper
10 teachers and officers thereof.

1 SECT. 6. Any city or town may assign any such
2 truant school as the place of confinement, discipline
3 and instruction for persons convicted under the
4 provisions of this act; and shall pay such sum for
5 the support of those committed thereto as the
6 county commissioners shall determine, not exceed-
7 ing the rate of two dollars per week for each per-
8 son.

1 SECT. 7. Any minor convicted under the pro-
2 visions of this act, may in the discretion of the
3 justice having jurisdiction, be committed to the
4 state primary school at Monson, instead of the
5 truant schools herein before mentioned, upon such
6 terms as to support as the trustees shall determine,
7 not exceeding the rate of two dollars per week;
8 and any minor so committed may be discharged in
9 the manner prescribed by section three of this act.

1 SECT. 8. All laws inconsistent with this act are
2 hereby repealed.