

HOUSE.....No. 40.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

To Provide for Taking a Census of Rateable Polls.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :*

1 SEC. 1. A census of the rateable polls in the sev-
2 eral cities and towns in this Commonwealth on the
3 first day of May next, and on the first day of May in
4 every tenth year thereafter, shall be taken and returned
5 into the secretary's office, in the said month of May,
6 in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

1 SEC. 2. The said census shall be taken in the sev-
2 eral cities by censors appointed by the mayor and al-

3 dermen thereof respectively; and in the several towns
4 said census shall be taken by the assessors thereof re-
5 spectively. And such censors or assessors shall be
6 sworn to take a true census of rateable polls, according
7 to the provisions of the twelfth article of the amend-
8 ments of the constitution, and of the seventh and
9 fifteenth chapters of the Revised Statutes passed on
10 the fourth day of November, in the year one thousand
11 eight hundred and thirty-five. And said censors or
12 assessors shall make out in words at length a return
13 of the result of the said census, and a majority of the
14 said censors of the several cities, and of the assessors
15 of the several towns respectively, shall sign the said
16 return, and make oath that the same is true according
17 to their best knowledge and belief; and a certificate
18 of the said oath, under the hand of the magistrate ad-
19 ministering the same, shall be annexed to the said re-
20 turn. And the said censors and assessors shall deliver
21 the said return to the sheriff of the county, on or be-
22 fore the twenty-fourth day of May next, who shall
23 transmit the same to the office of the secretary of the
24 Commonwealth on or before the last day of said month
25 of May. Or the said censors or assessors shall them-
26 selves transmit the said return to the secretary's office
27 on or before the day last aforesaid.

1 SEC. 3. Any censor or assessor, who shall wilfully
2 refuse or neglect to perform any duty imposed on him
3 by this act, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding
4 five hundred dollars. And any sheriff, who shall wil-
5 fully refuse or neglect to perform the duty imposed on
6 him by this act, shall be liable to a penalty not ex-
7 ceeding one thousand dollars. And any censor or
8 assessor, who shall be guilty of wilful deceit or false-

9 hood in the discharge of any duty enjoined by this
10 act, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding two
11 thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not
12 exceeding one year.

1 SEC. 4. As soon as may be after the passing of
2 this act, the secretary shall transmit a printed copy
3 thereof to the clerks of the several cities and towns
4 respectively, together with a printed copy of the said
5 article of amendment, and a printed form of return,
6 and shall annex to said form a notification that all re-
7 turns must be made into his office on or before the
8 last day of May next.

1 SEC. 5. This act shall take effect on the fourteenth
2 day after the approval thereof.

