

HOUSE....No. 126.

[Reported by the Committee on Agriculture.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

To establish a State Board of Agriculture.

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. A State Board of Agriculture is hereby
2 established, to consist of his Excellency the Governor,
3 the Lieutenant Governor, and the Secretary of State,
4 ex officio ; and one member from each agricultural
5 society, incorporated under the 42d chapter of the
6 Revised Statutes, to be chosen annually, in the month
7 of November, by the trustees, or members of said
8 societies, as they may decide ; *provided*, that not more

9 than one member shall be chosen in each county of
10 the Commonwealth; and, where two or more socie-
11 ties exist in any county, said societies shall be en-
12 titled, alternately, to choose a member, commencing
13 with that first incorporated. It shall be the duty of
14 this board to take the general supervision of all mat-
15 ters relating to agriculture in this Commonwealth;
16 and they shall be empowered to receive, hold in trust,
17 and exercise control over any donations or bequests
18 from private sources, made to advance agricultural
19 education.

1 SECT. 2. At the first meeting of this board, chosen
2 as aforesaid, and called by his Excellency the Gover-
3 nor, its members shall be divided into three equal
4 classes, as near as can be, and the term of office of
5 the first class shall expire on the first Wednesday of
6 January, in the year 1853; of the second class, on
7 the first Wednesday of January, 1854; and of the
8 third class, on the first Wednesday of January, 1855.
9 The expiration of each class to be determined by lot,
10 by the whole board, and the vacancies, thus created,
11 to be filled by the respective agricultural societies to
12 which such class may belong.

1 SECT. 3. The Board of Agriculture shall meet at
2 least twice in each year, and as much oftener as they
3 may deem expedient; and they are hereby empowered
4 to employ a suitable person to act as secretary of said
5 board, prescribing his duties, and fixing his compen-
6 sation, from year to year. And the said board shall,
7 annually, through their secretary, or chairman, sub-
8 mit to the Legislature a report of their doings, with
9 such recommendations and suggestions as, in their
10 view, the interests of agriculture may require.

1 SECT. 4. Whenever the Common School Fund
2 shall have reached its maximum of one million of
3 dollars, as now provided by law, and the Western
4 Railroad Stock Sinking Fund shall have reached the
5 sum of seven hundred thousand dollars; then *one*
6 *fourth* of the future proceeds of lands belonging to
7 this Commonwealth, in the state of Maine, and of the
8 claims of Massachusetts on the Federal Government,
9 shall be, and hereby is appropriated as an agricul-
10 tural fund, to be expended at the discretion of the
11 Legislature, for the encouragement and support of
12 institutions for instruction in the science and practice
13 of agriculture.

1 SECT. 5. The expenses of the aforesaid board, in-
2 cluding the necessary traveling expenses of its mem-
3 bers, and the salary of its secretary, shall be paid by
4 the Commonwealth, to be audited by the Governor
5 and Council.

1 SECT. 6. This act shall take effect from and after
2 its passage.

