

HOUSE . . . . No. 410.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 16, 1887.

The Committee on Education, who were instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the education of all illiterate minors and their attendance at evening schools, report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

HENRY C. ALLEN.

Mr. FOOTE of Westfield, of the House, dissents.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT

Relating to the Employment of Illiterate Minors.

*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. Every owner, superintendent or  
2 overseer of any manufacturing, mechanical or  
3 mercantile establishment who employs, or permits  
4 to be employed, a minor under fourteen years of  
5 age who cannot read and write in the English lan-  
6 guage, except during the vacation of the public  
7 schools in the city or town where such minor  
8 lives, and every parent or guardian who permits  
9 such employment, shall, for every such offence,  
10 forfeit not less than twenty nor more than fifty  
11 dollars for the use of the public schools of such  
12 city or town.

1 SECT. 2. Every person who regularly employs,  
2 or permits to be employed, a minor fourteen years

3 of age or over who cannot read and write in the  
4 English language, providing such minor has been  
5 since reaching the age of fourteen for one year  
6 continuously a resident of a city or town in this  
7 Commonwealth wherein public evening schools  
8 are maintained, shall for every such offence forfeit  
9 not less than fifty nor more than one hundred  
10 dollars, to be recovered in an action of tort for  
11 the use of the evening schools of such city or  
12 town.

1    SECT. 3. Whenever it appears that the labor  
2 of any minor who would be debarred from employ-  
3 ment under section two of this act is necessary  
4 for the support of the family to which said minor  
5 belongs, or for his own support, the school com-  
6 mittee of said city or town may in the exercise of  
7 their discretion issue a permit authorizing the  
8 employment of such minor within such time or  
9 time as they may fix, and the provisions of said  
10 section two shall not apply to such minor so long  
11 as said permit is in force, nor to any minor who  
12 is a regular attendant of a day or evening school.

1    SECT. 4. Two weeks next before the opening  
2 of each term of the evening schools the school  
3 committee shall, by posters posted in the public  
4 places of said city or town, give notice of the  
5 location of said schools, the date of the com-  
6 mencement of the term, the evenings of the week  
7 during which said schools shall be kept, the pro-  
8 visions of section two of this act as to forfeiture

9 for non-compliance with said section, and such  
10 regulations as to attendance as they shall deem  
11 proper.

1     SECT. 5. Section seven of chapter forty-eight  
2 of the Public Statutes is hereby repealed.

1     SECT. 6. This act shall take effect on the first  
2 day of October in the year one thousand eight  
3 hundred and eighty-seven.