

HOUSE No. 464.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 25, 1887.

The Committee on Harbors and Public Lands, to whom was recommitted the petition of E. M. Thurston and others for legislation relative to the passage of vessels through Taunton River bridge, report the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

SETH W. GODFREY.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

To provide for the Regulation of the Passage of Vessels through the Draw of the Highway and Railway Bridge across Taunton Great River in the City of Fall River and Town of Somerset.

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. The board of harbor and land
2 commissioners may make from time to time such
3 rules and regulations, not repugnant to law, in
4 respect to the passage of vessels through the
5 draw of the highway and railway bridge across
6 Taunton Great river in the city of Fall River
7 and town of Somerset, as, in the judgment of
8 said board, the protection of said bridge and the
9 public safety and convenience in the use of said
10 bridge and said river may require; and may an-

11 nex penalties not exceeding fifty dollars for each
12 violation thereof.

1 SECT. 2. Such rules and regulations shall
2 provide for the appointment by the Old Colony
3 Railroad Company of a suitable superintendent,
4 experienced in the management of vessels, to
5 have the charge of said draw, and the direction
6 and control of the passage of vessels through the
7 same, who shall have the powers and duties set
8 forth in so much of chapters fifty-three and one
9 hundred and twelve of the Public Statutes as
10 relates to highway and railroad draw-bridges,
11 and shall enforce the rules and regulations made
12 as aforesaid.

1 SECT. 3. If a vessel, through the negligence
2 of the persons in charge of her, or through their
3 neglect to comply with such rules and regulations
4 or disregard of the directions of such superinten-
5 dent, injures said bridge, or the draw or piers
6 connected therewith, the owner or owners of such
7 vessel shall be liable for such damage, to be re-
8 covered in an action of tort in the name of such
9 superintendent to the use of the corporations
10 maintaining said bridge.

1 SECT. 4. A copy of all rules and regulations
2 made as aforesaid shall be posted in some con-
3 spicuous place on or near said draw, and such
4 other notice thereof shall be given as directed by
5 said board.

