

HOUSE . . . No. 1891

By Mr. Roberts of Framingham (by request), petition of the Massachusetts Federation of Taxpayers Associations, Inc., relative to farms in connection with county penal institutions. Counties.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO FARMS IN CONNECTION WITH COUNTY PENAL INSTITUTIONS.

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

1 Chapter one hundred and twenty-six of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out sections
3 thirty-five to thirty-nine, inclusive, and inserting in
4 place thereof the following new sections:—

5 *Section 35.* Any county by vote of the county
6 commissioners may establish and operate a prison
7 farm under the control of the sheriff and subject to
8 the approval of the commissioner of correction and for
9 this purpose said county commissioners may, subject
10 to the same approval, purchase, take by eminent
11 domain under chapter seventy-nine, or lease, in behalf
12 of the county, a tract of land not exceeding three
13 hundred acres for use as such farm and may reclaim,
14 cultivate and improve the same. The work of reclaim-
15 ing, cultivating and improving said land shall, so far
16 as practicable, be done by prisoners.

17 *Section 36.* To meet the expense of acquiring land
18 in fee under section thirty-five the county commis-
19 sioners may borrow from time to time, upon the credit
20 of the county, such sums as may be necessary, but not
21 exceeding in any one year three thousand dollars, and
22 may issue notes of the county therefor, which shall be
23 payable in not more than two years from their re-
24 spective dates. Notes issued under authority of this
25 section shall bear on their face the words, County of
26 Prison Farm Loan, General Laws, Chap-
27 ter 126, — and, except as herein provided, shall be
28 subject to chapter thirty-five. Such notes shall be
29 signed by the treasurer of the county and counter-
30 signed by a majority of the county commissioners.
31 Said notes, if payable in not more than one year may
32 be sold at a discount, such discount to be treated as
33 interest paid in advance, but, if payable in more than
34 one year, shall not be sold for less than their par value.
35 The county may sell the said securities at public or
36 private sale and the proceeds shall be used only for
37 such of the aforesaid purposes as are specified in the
38 vote authorizing the loan.

39 *Section 37.* The county commissioners shall include
40 in the estimates for county expenses under section
41 twenty-nine of chapter thirty-five of the General Laws
42 such sums as they deem necessary for the maintenance
43 and operation of such farms, including buildings and
44 other structures; provided, that receipts from the
45 operation of said farm may also be used during the
46 year in which they are received; and provided, fur-
47 ther, that any balances remaining at the end of the
48 fiscal year shall become a part of the general unappro-
49 priated balance in the county treasury.