

HOUSE . . . . . No. 97.

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[Bill accompanying the petition of James F. Carey for legislation to restrict the employment at labor of children under sixteen years of age and to provide further for the education of children over said age. Labor.] January 10.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and One.

AN ACT

To regulate the Employment of 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. Section one of chapter four hun-  
2 dred and ninety-four of the acts of the year eigh-  
3 teen hundred and ninety-eight is hereby amended  
4 by striking out the word "fourteen," in the first  
5 line thereof, and substituting the word: — sixteen,  
6 — so as to read as follows: —

7 *Section 1.* No child under sixteen years of age  
8 shall be employed in any factory, workshop or  
9 mercantile establishment. No such child shall be

10 employed in any work performed for wages or  
11 other compensation, to whomsoever payable, dur-  
12 ing the hours when the public schools of the town  
13 or city in which he resides are in session, nor be  
14 employed at any work before the hour of six  
15 o'clock in the morning or after the hour of seven  
16 o'clock in the evening.

1 SECTION 2. Section seven of said chapter is  
2 hereby amended by striking out the word "four-  
3 teen" in the second line thereof, and substituting  
4 the word:— sixteen,— so as to read as follows:—  
5 *Section 7.* No person shall employ any minor  
6 over sixteen years of age, and no parent, guar-  
7 dian or custodian shall permit to be employed any  
8 such minor under his control who cannot read at  
9 sight and write legibly simple sentences in the  
10 English language while a public evening school  
11 is maintained in the town or city in which such  
12 minor resides, unless such minor is a regular  
13 attendant at such evening school or at a day  
14 school: *provided*, that upon presentation by such  
15 minor of a certificate signed by a regular prac-  
16 tising physician, and satisfactory to the su-  
17 perintendent of schools, or, where there is no  
18 superintendent of schools, the school committee,  
19 showing that the physical condition of such  
20 minor would render such attendance in addition  
21 to daily labor prejudicial to his health, said super-  
22 intendent of schools or school committee shall  
23 issue a permit authorizing the employment of  
24 such minor for such period as said superintendent

25 of schools or school committee may determine.  
26 Said superintendent of schools or school com-  
27 mittee, or teachers acting under authority thereof,  
28 may excuse any absence from such evening  
29 school arising from justifiable cause. Any per-  
30 son who employs a minor in violation of the  
31 provisions of this section shall forfeit for each  
32 offence not more than one hundred dollars for the  
33 use of the evening schools of such town or city.  
34 Any parent, guardian or custodian who permits  
35 to be employed any minor under his control in  
36 violation of the provisions of this section shall  
37 forfeit not more than twenty dollars for the use  
38 of the evening schools of such town or city.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on the  
2 first day of September, in the year nineteen  
3 hundred and one.

