

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1501

By Mr. Jeremiah J. Sullivan of Cambridge, petition of Jeremiah J. Sullivan for imposing a tax on certain business transactions occurring within the Commonwealth. Taxation.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT IMPOSING A TAX ON CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS OCCURRING IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

*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. A tax, in the amount as herein speci-  
2 fied, to be paid into the treasury of the common-  
3 wealth is hereby imposed on the following transac-  
4 tions occurring within the commonwealth.

5 A. The maker or purchaser, or drawer, as the  
6 case may be, of any note, either negotiable or non-  
7 negotiable, bill of exchange, bond, both registered and  
8 bearer, shall hereinafter pay a tax of two cents per  
9 hundred dollars valuation of such note, bill of ex-  
10 change or bond. No exemptions shall be granted  
11 under this paragraph.

12 B. The drawer of checks shall be taxed as fol-  
13 lows:—

14 (1) Checks drawn to an amount less than ten dol-  
15 lars shall be exempt.

16 (2) Checks drawn for ten to one hundred dollars  
17 shall be taxed one cent.

18 (3) Checks drawn for over one hundred to five hun-  
19 dred dollars shall be taxed two cents.

20 (4) Checks drawn for over five hundred to one  
21 thousand dollars shall be taxed three cents.

22 (5) Checks drawn for an amount over one thousand  
23 dollars shall be taxed five cents.

24 (C) The lessee of a lease of real estate shall pay a  
25 tax of five dollars per one thousand dollars of the total  
26 rent reserved. This provision shall also apply to op-  
27 tions to renew when exercised.

28 (D) The purchaser on a conditional sale of per-  
29 sonal property shall pay a tax as follows: —

30 (1) Sales up to the value of fifty dollars shall be  
31 exempt.

32 (2) Sales over the value of fifty dollars shall be  
33 taxed ten cents for each unit of fifty dollars of the  
34 total amount secured by the instrument.

35 (E) On sales of real estate the buyer shall pay a  
36 tax of twenty cents per one hundred dollars assessed  
37 valuation of the bond. Sales of real estate of the  
38 value of five hundred dollars or less shall be exempt.

39 (F) On the sale of life insurance policies a tax of  
40 two and one half cents shall be paid by the insured for  
41 each unit of one hundred dollars. Policies having a  
42 face value of five hundred dollars or less shall be  
43 exempt.

44 (G) On sales of health and accident insurance pol-  
45 icies, a tax of two and one half cents per one hundred  
46 dollars of total payments guaranteed for six months'  
47 total disability shall be paid by the insured.

48 (H) On sales of all insurance policies not covered  
49 by paragraphs (F) and (G), a tax of two and one half  
50 cents per unit of one hundred dollars shall be paid by  
51 the insured.

52 (I) On sales of annuities a tax of two and one half  
53 cents per unit of one hundred dollars face value shall  
54 be paid by the purchaser. Annuity contracts with  
55 provisions for payment of one hundred dollars or less  
56 per month shall be exempt.

57 (J) The sender of telegrams shall pay a tax of one  
58 cent per message.

59 (K) Certified copies of public records, issued by  
60 public officers shall be hereinafter taxed ten cents per  
61 certified copy, said tax to be paid by the person re-  
62 questing such copy.

63 (L) Upon the entry of a writ in any court of the  
64 commonwealth the plaintiff shall pay a tax of two  
65 cents for each unit of one hundred dollars of the ad  
66 damnum. Actions of replevin, bills in equity, cer-  
67 tificates of plaintiff of attorney of amount in contro-  
68 versy, shall be taxed two cents per one hundred dollars  
69 of that amount, payable by the plaintiff. Writs of  
70 entry and ejectment, and certificates of rental value  
71 shall be taxed two cents per unit of one hundred dol-  
72 lars on the yearly rental rate of the property, to be  
73 paid by the plaintiff.

74 (M) Upon the filing of inventories of estates with  
75 the probate court or with the tax commissioner, there  
76 shall be paid a tax of one dollar per unit of one thou-  
77 sand dollars valuation. Estates with the valuation of  
78 one thousand dollars shall be exempt.

79 (N) The principal on a surety bond shall pay a  
80 tax of two and one half cents on each unit of one hun-  
81 dred dollars of the bond.

1 SECTION 2. The commissioner of corporations and  
2 taxation shall make all rules and regulations necessary  
3 for the collection of taxes and the enforcement of the  
4 provisions of this act.

