

HOUSE . . . . No. 290.

---

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 4, 1873.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the Report of the Board of Education, have considered the same, and report the accompanying Bill.

Per order,

SANFORD WATERS BILLINGS,  
*For the Committee.*

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Three.

---

### AN ACT

Relating to the Employment of Children and Regulations respecting them.

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

1    SECT. 1. Children under the age of fourteen  
2 years shall not be employed in any manufacturing,  
3 mechanical or mercantile establishment, unless  
4 within the twelve months next preceding the term  
5 of such employment they have attended some pub-  
6 lic or private day-school under teachers approved  
7 by the school committee of the place in which said  
8 school was kept, at least twenty-four weeks, and  
9 unless they shall attend such a school for a like  
10 period during each twelve months of such employ-  
11 ment: *provided*, that a daily attendance during the  
12 time of the employment of any child in a public or  
13 private day-school, known as a "half-time" school,  
14 and approved by the school committee of the place  
15 in which it is kept, or the previous acquisition of  
16 the branches of learning taught in the public

17 schools, certified by said committee, may be deemed  
18 an equivalent for the attendance herein before re-  
19 quired.

1   SECT. 2. No child under the age of ten years  
2 shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechan-  
3 ical or mercantile establishment in this Common-  
4 wealth; and no child under the age of fourteen  
5 years shall be employed in any such establishment  
6 more than sixty hours in one week.

1   SECT. 3. Any owner, agent, superintendent or  
2 overseer of any manufacturing, mechanical or mer-  
3 cantile establishment who shall employ or permit  
4 to be employed any child in violation of these sec-  
5 tions, and any parent or guardian who allows or  
6 consents to such employment, shall for such offence  
7 forfeit the sum of fifty dollars to the use of the  
8 public schools in the city or town where such  
9 establishment is situated.

1   SECT. 4. The truant officers of the several  
2 cities and towns shall, as often as the school com-  
3 mittee require, examine into the situation of the  
4 children employed in all manufacturing, mechan-  
5 ical and mercantile establishments therein, ascer-  
6 tain whether the provisions of the foregoing sec-  
7 tions of this act are duly observed, and prosecute  
8 in the name of the city or town for violations  
9 thereof.

1   SECT. 5. All laws inconsistent with this act are  
2 hereby repealed.

