

HOUSE No. 1116

By Mr. Morrill of Haverhill, petition of the Civil Liberties Committee of Massachusetts for legislation to abolish penalties for peaceful persuasion during labor disputes and other industrial disturbances. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven.

An Act providing for the Abolition of Penalties for Peaceful Persuasion during Labor Disputes.

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 twenty-four of chapter one
2 hundred and forty-nine of the General Laws, as
3 appearing in the Tercentenary Edition, is hereby
4 amended by inserting after the word "persuade"
5 and before the word "by" in the third line the words:
6 — by the distribution on a street or elsewhere of
7 handbills, cards, circulars, or papers, or by carrying
8 or displaying any showcard, placard or sign or, —
9 so as to read as follows:— *Section 24.* No person
10 shall be punished criminally, or held liable or answer-
11 able in any action at law or suit in equity, for per-
12 suading or attempting to persuade, by the distribu-
13 tion on a street or elsewhere of handbills, cards,
14 circulars, or papers, or by carrying or displaying any
15 showcard, placard or sign, or by printing or other-

16 wise, any other person to do anything, or to pursue
17 any line of conduct not unlawful or actionable or in
18 violation of any marital or other legal duty, unless
19 such persuasion or attempt to persuade is accom-
20 panied by injury or threat of injury to the person,
21 property, business or occupation of the person per-
22 suaded or attempted to be persuaded, or by disorder
23 or other unlawful conduct on the part of the person
24 persuading or attempting to persuade, or is a part of
25 an unlawful or actionable conspiracy.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter one hundred and forty-nine
2 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting
3 after section twenty-four the following new section:—
4 *Section 24A.* No city or town shall in any way
5 curtail, abridge or limit the right or opportunity of
6 any person to exercise the right of peaceful persuasion
7 guaranteed by section twenty-four, nor shall any city
8 or town require a permit or the doing of any act or
9 deed as a condition precedent to the exercise of any
10 right allowed therein.