

HOUSE No. 881.

Bill accompanying the petition of Peter F. Ward for legislation relative to the disposition of fines and forfeitures for non-support of wife or minor children. Probate and Chancery. January 25.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Six.

AN ACT

Relative to the Disposition of Fines and Forfeitures
for Non-support of Wives and Minor Children.

*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. All fines and forfeitures and all
2 sums of money recovered on recognizances taken
3 in cases arising under the provisions of section
4 forty-five of chapter two hundred and twelve of
5 the Revised Laws may, in the discretion of the
6 court having original jurisdiction of the case, be
7 paid to the wife or to the city, town, corporation,
8 society or person actually supporting such wife or
9 minor child at the time of making the complaint.

1 SECTION 2. Section forty-five of chapter two
2 hundred and twelve of the Revised Laws is hereby
3 amended by inserting at the end of line five
4 thereof the words: — *the wife or*, — so that said
5 section as amended shall read as follows: —

6 *Section 45.* Whoever unreasonably neglects
7 to provide for the support of his wife or minor
8 child shall be punished by a fine of not more than
9 twenty dollars or by imprisonment for not more
10 than six months. All fines imposed under the
11 provisions of this section may, in the discretion of
12 the court, be paid in whole or in part to *the wife*
13 *or* to the city, town, corporation, society or person
14 actually supporting such wife or minor child at
15 the time of making the complaint. Proof of neg-
16 lect to provide for the support of a wife or minor
17 child as aforesaid shall be prima facie evidence
18 that such neglect is unreasonable.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.