

HOUSE.....

.....No. 31.

A N A C T

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS

FOR THE

CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE GOVERNMENT

DURING THE PRESENT YEAR.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 27, 1839.

The Committee of Finance to whom was referred an estimate of the Treasurer of the Current Income and Expenditure of the present year, having duly considered the same,

REPORT

as follows:—

Your Committee are fully satisfied, that economy in the current expenses of the Commonwealth would be essentially promoted, by a change in the mode in which those expenses are authorized. The several items are now defrayed from the Treasury in each year, in virtue of acts or resolves, either passed at sundry times by the Legislature of such year, or existing previously.

In other words, the expenses of the Commonwealth are provided for, by a large number of separate laws, and consequently expenditures to a large amount are often authorized, without any means of convenient reference to the condition of the public resources, or to the comparative necessity of different branches of expenditure.

The practice in Congress is essentially different. In that body, although appropriations for occasional disbursements are sometimes made in separate acts, it is the general practice to include all allowances for the regular and ordinary expenses of the Civil Government, in a general bill of appropriations, without regard to the fact, that some of those expenses may have previously been sanctioned by permanent laws. Thus a comprehensive and distinct view of these expenses is annually exhibited to the government, and the people. Your Committee are assured, that a similar course will commend itself to the wisdom of the present and of future Legislatures, and they respectfully submit a Bill of Appropriations for the current expenses of the present year, founded principally upon the estimate of the Treasurer.

The appropriation for the expenses of Legislation, has been fixed by your Committee, at a sum considerably below the amount specified in that document. That amount was assumed by the Treasurer on the supposition that the length of the present session would equal that of the last.

The two Houses have since entertained a proposition to rise before the end of the month of March, and the Committee have varied the estimate accordingly.

The appropriations for some important objects of expenditure are reported in blank, inasmuch as those objects have been specially submitted to the consideration of Committees, whose reports will probably enable the House to estimate the amount to be allowed in each case, far more correctly than can now be done by your Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. GRAY, *Per Order.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

Making Appropriations for the current Expenses of the Government during the present year.

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

1 SEC. 1. That the following sums be, and the same
2 hereby are appropriated for the current expenses of the
3 Commonwealth during the present year, to be paid out
4 of any unappropriated money in the treasury, to wit :

5 For the pay of the Council, Senate, House of Rep-
6 resentatives, and their clerks, a sum not exceeding one
7 hundred and ten thousand dollars.

8 For salaries established by law, seventy-two thou-
9 sand dollars.

6 EXPENSES OF GOVERNMENT. [Feb.

- 10 For balances to county treasurers, a sum not ex-
11 ceeding dollars.
- 12 For militia services, a sum not exceeding thirty
13 thousand dollars.
- 14 For the bounty on wheat, a sum not exceeding nine
15 thousand five hundred dollars.
- 16 For pauper accounts, a sum not exceeding
17 dollars.
- 18 For military and other accounts on the rolls of the
19 committee of accounts, a sum not exceeding
20 thousand dollars.
- 21 For interest on money borrowed of corporations and
22 individuals, to defray the expenses of the Common-
23 wealth, a sum not exceeding nineteen thousand dol-
24 lars.
- 25 For interest on scrip, issued on account of the sub-
26 scription of the Commonwealth to the Western Rail-
27 road, fifteen thousand dollars.
- 28 For the current expenses of the Lunatic Hospital,
29 at Worcester, a sum not exceeding twelve thousand
30 dollars.
- 31 For the accounts of the state printers, including the
32 printing of the Journals of the Provincial Congress, a
33 sum not exceeding fourteen thousand dollars.
- 34 For the support and instruction of the deaf and
35 dumb, six thousand five hundred dollars.
- 36 For the support and instruction of the blind, six
37 thousand dollars.
- 38 For the Eye and Ear Infirmary, two thousand dol-
39 lars.
- 40 For agricultural societies, a sum not exceeding four
41 thousand five hundred dollars.
- 42 For the Adjutant and Quarter Master General's de-
43 partment, a sum not exceeding four thousand dollars.

- 44 For pensioners and old and wounded soldiers, a sum
45 not exceeding two thousand seven hundred dollars.
- 46 For the purchase of term reports, twelve hundred
47 dollars.
- 48 For the expenses of state surveys, a sum not ex-
49 ceeding dollars.
- 50 For repairs in and about the state-house, a sum not
51 exceeding two thousand dollars.
- 52 For the destruction of noxious animals, a sum not
53 exceeding one thousand dollars.
- 54 For the bounty on silk a sum not exceeding five
55 hundred dollars.
- 56 For the American Institute of Instruction, three
57 hundred dollars.
- 58 For the Boston Society of Natural History, three
59 hundred dollars.
- 60 For the Essex Society of Natural History, one hun-
61 dred and fifty dollars.
- 62 For the state library, six hundred dollars.
- 63 For yearly salary of the Agricultural Surveyor a
64 sum not exceeding dollars.
- 65 For the compensation of Bank Commissioners, a sum
66 not exceeding three thousand dollars.
- 67 For the purchase of fuel, &c., for the use of Gov-
68 ernment, a sum not exceeding two thousand dollars.
- 69 For the appropriation for qualifying school teachers,
70 a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars.
- 71 For miscellaneous items, not properly chargeable
72 to any of the foregoing appropriations, a sum not ex-
73 ceeding ten thousand dollars.
- 74 For a contingent fund, to be expended under the
75 authority of the Governor and Council, and an ac-
76 count thereof to be rendered to the Legislature, at

77 their next session, a sum not exceeding ten thousand
78 dollars.

1 SEC. 2. All sums paid from the treasury, since the
2 beginning of the present year, which are properly
3 chargeable to any of the above appropriations, shall be
4 charged to such appropriation, and deducted therefrom
5 in the same manner as if this act had been passed pre-
6 vious to such payments.

1 SEC. 3. No payment properly chargeable to any
2 of the above appropriations, shall be made from the
3 treasury, if the amount specified in such appropriation
4 shall be thereby exceeded, excepting such payments
5 as may be authorized by any subsequent appropriation.

1 SEC. 4. This act shall go into operation from and
2 after the passing of the same.