

SENATE No. 237

To accompany the petition of James P. McAndrews for legislation relative to the employment or exhibition of children in certain places of amusement. Mercantile Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Three.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EXHIBITION OF 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 one hundred and four of chapter one hun-
2 dred and forty-nine of the General Laws, as most
3 recently amended, is hereby further amended by
4 striking out all of said section and substituting in
5 place thereof the following new section:—

6 *Section 104.* No person shall employ, exhibit or
7 apprentice, or permit to be employed, exhibited, or
8 apprenticed, any child under fifteen years of age in
9 dancing, singing, playing on musical instruments, or
10 as a gymnast, contortionist, or acrobat, or in any
11 other type of exhibition, in a theatre, night club, cir-
12 cus, or in any public place, or cause, procure or en-
13 courage such child to engage therein; but this section
14 shall not prevent the education of children in vocal
15 and instrumental music or dancing or their partici-
16 pation in any exhibition of dancing conducted as a part

17 of its graduation exercises by a school furnishing them
18 instruction in dancing or their employment as musi-
19 cians in a church, chapel, school or school exhibition,
20 or prevent their taking part in any festival, concert
21 or musical exhibition upon the special written per-
22 mission of the proper local licensing authority; nor
23 shall it prevent children under fifteen from taking
24 part on the stage for a limited period in a play or
25 musical comedy in a theatre wherein not more than
26 two performances are given in any one day and not
27 more than eight performances are given in any one
28 week if the commissioner, after being satisfied that
29 the supervision of such children is adequate, that their
30 living conditions are healthful and that their educa-
31 tion is not neglected, gives his written permission to
32 such taking part. Whoever violates this section shall
33 be punished by a fine of not more than two hundred
34 dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six
35 months.