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By Mr. Walsh, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 178) of C.R. Messer and Joseph B. Walsh for legislation relative to the inspection and replacement of gas meters. Government Regulations.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-five.

**AN ACT AMENDING PROVISIONS FOR INSPECTION AND REPLACEMENT OF GAS METERS.**

*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. Chapter 164 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out section 103 and inserting in place  
3 thereof the following section:

4 The department, in accordance with its rules and regula-  
5 tions, shall make the inspection of gas required by section one  
6 hundred and nine and the gas company, in the presence of the  
7 department if so determined, by said department, shall in-  
8 spect, examine, ascertain and prove the accuracy of all meters  
9 which are to be used for measuring illuminating gas and which  
10 are to be furnished to, or for the use of, any consumer or com-  
11 pany, or by performing said procedure on a sample of such  
12 meters as are to be inspected, examined, ascertained and pro-  
13 ved according either to an attributes or a variables sampling  
14 plan, such as Military Standard 105D or Military Standard 414  
15 promulgated by the United States Department of Defense, or  
16 such other sampling procedure as the department in its discre-  
17 tion may determine, and shall seal, stamp or mark each meter  
18 so tested, if it be found correct, with some suitable device to  
19 be determined by the department and recorded in the office  
20 of the State secretary. A meter shall not be correct if it varies  
21 more than two percent from the standard measure.

22 The gas company shall keep a record of all meters examin-  
23 ed by its employees with their proof of testing at the time of  
24 inspection, in a manner determined appropriate by the depart-  
25 ment which shall be open at all times for examination by the  
26 department. The department may forego witnessing the in-

27 spection, examination, ascertainment and proof of each meter  
28 where such records kept by the gas company substantiate pro-  
29 per testing and sampling in accordance with law.

1 SECTION 2. Section 115 A of Chapter 164 of the General Laws  
2 is hereby amended by striking the first paragraph and inser-  
3 ting in its place the following paragraph:

4 Each meter for measuring gas provided by a gas company  
5 or municipal lighting plant to a consumer shall, after seven  
6 years from the date of installation or replacement or such later  
7 period of time as the department in its discretion may order  
8 be removed by the company or municipal lighting plant from  
9 the premises of the consumer and replaced by it with such a  
10 meter which has been tested and sealed, stamped or marked  
11 as required by section one hundred and three of this chapter.