

# HOUSE . . . . No. 559

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By Mr. Whiton of Quincy, petition of Joseph L. Whiton that a five-day week be established for certain public employees and for persons employed on public works. Public Service.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A FIVE-DAY WEEK, SO CALLED, FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND PERSONS EMPLOYED ON PUBLIC WORKS.

*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 thirty of chapter one hundred  
2 and forty-nine of the General Laws, as most recently  
3 amended by section one of chapter three hundred and  
4 sixty-seven of the acts of nineteen hundred and  
5 thirty-six, is hereby further amended by striking out,  
6 in the tenth and eighteenth lines, respectively, the  
7 word "forty-eight" and inserting in place thereof, in  
8 each instance, the word: — forty, — and by striking  
9 out, in the eleventh and eighteenth lines, respectively,  
10 the word "six" and inserting in place thereof, in each  
11 instance, the word: — five, — so as to read as follows:  
12 — *Section 30.* The service of all laborers, workmen  
13 and mechanics now or hereafter employed by the

14 commonwealth or any county therein or any town  
15 which, by vote of the city council, or of the voters at  
16 a town meeting, accepts this section or has accepted  
17 section one of chapter two hundred and forty of the  
18 General Acts of nineteen hundred and sixteen, or by  
19 any contractor or sub-contractor for or upon any  
20 public works of the commonwealth or of any county  
21 therein or of any such town is hereby restricted to  
22 eight hours in any one day, to forty hours in any one  
23 week, and to five days in any one week. No officer of  
24 the commonwealth, except as provided herein, or of  
25 any county or of any such town, no such contractor  
26 or sub-contractor or other person whose duty it is to  
27 employ, direct or control the service of such laborers,  
28 workmen or mechanics shall require or permit any  
29 such laborer, workman or mechanic to work more  
30 than eight hours in any one day, or more than forty  
31 hours in any one week, or more than five days in any  
32 one week, except in cases of extraordinary emergency.  
33 The provisions of this section shall not prohibit the  
34 employment by the state department of public works,  
35 or by any contractor or sub-contractor for said de-  
36 partment, of laborers, workmen and mechanics for  
37 more than eight hours in any one day in the con-  
38 struction or reconstruction of highways when, in the  
39 opinion of the commissioner of labor and industries,  
40 public necessity so requires.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter one hundred and forty-  
2 nine is hereby further amended by striking out  
3 section thirty-three.

1 SECTION 3. On and after the effective date of this  
2 act the salary or compensation of all laborers, work-

3 men and mechanics specified in said section thirty  
4 for a forty hour week shall be established at a rate  
5 sufficient to equal the salary or compensation payable  
6 to such laborers, workmen and mechanics immediately  
7 prior to said effective date for a forty-eight hour week.

