

HOUSE No. 998.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 22, 1899.

The committee on Manufactures, to whom was referred the petition (with accompanying bill, Senate, No. 154) of John F. Wood and others for legislation to regulate the sale of electricity, and the Bill (introduced on leave) to regulate the price of electric light and the inspection of electric meters (House, No. 567), report the accompanying bill.

For the Committee,

CHARLES F. A. SMITH.

Mr. MONTGOMERY of Cambridge, of the House, dissents.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-nine.

AN ACT

To regulate the Use and provide for the Inspection of Electric 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. Every company, city or town engaged
2 in the sale of incandescent electric light or of electricity
3 for incandescent lighting, whenever requested so to do
4 by the board of gas and electric light commissioners,
5 shall instal upon the premises of such customer a record-
6 ing electric meter of a type approved by the board of
7 gas and electric light commissioners in such manner that
8 it may measure the amount of electrical energy or cur-
9 rent delivered to the customer.

1 SECTION 2. Any customer of an electric company
2 and any company may apply to the board for an examin-
3 ation and test of any meter in use upon a customer's
4 premises. Upon such application the board shall forth-
5 with make or cause to be made such examination or test
6 as in the judgment of the board is practicable and rea-

7 sonable, and shall furnish to said customer and said
8 company a certificate of the results thereof. If upon
9 such examination and test it appears that the meter is
10 not registering correctly, the board may order such
11 meter removed and another meter substituted in its
12 place, and there tested, all without expense to the cus-
13 tomer. All fees for the examination and testing pro-
14 vided for in this act shall be paid by the company owning
15 the meter, but if the examination is made at the request
16 of the customer and the meter is found by the inspector
17 to be registering correctly, the customer shall repay the
18 fee to the company. Meters shall be deemed correct
19 for the purposes of this act if they register within three
20 per centum of the standard.

1 SECTION 3. The board may appoint such number of
2 persons as it may deem advisable as inspectors of elec-
3 tric meters, and may prescribe the districts and the
4 terms for which each may act as such. Said inspectors
5 shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of their duties,
6 and may be removed at any time by the board. They
7 may collect and retain the prescribed fees for their ex-
8 aminations and tests, and shall make such reports of
9 their doings as the board may require.

1 SECTION 4. The board may establish such rules and
2 regulations, fix such standards, prescribe such fees and
3 employ such means and methods in and in connection
4 with the examination and testing of electric meters
5 authorized by this act, as in the judgment of the board
6 shall be most practicable, expedient and economical.
7 Any expense thus incurred shall not exceed the sum of
8 three thousand dollars in any year, and shall be assessed
9 upon and recovered from the several companies engaged

10 in the business of electric lighting, in the manner now
11 provided for the assessment and recovery of other
12 expenses of the board.

1 SECTION 5. In this act the word "company" shall
2 include every individual, partnership, private or munic-
3 pal corporation or association engaged in the sale of in-
4 candescent electric lighting or electricity for incandescent
5 lighting, and the word "board" wherever used shall
6 mean the board of gas and electric light commissioners.

1 SECTION 6. This act, excepting section two, shall
2 take effect upon its passage. Section two shall take
3 effect upon the thirtieth day of June in the year eighteen
4 hundred and ninety-nine.