

# HOUSE....No. 45.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Jan. 28, 1841.

*Ordered*, That the Committee on Education inquire into the expediency of reducing the expenses of, modifying or abolishing the Board of Education.

L. S. CUSHING, *Clerk*.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 18, 1841.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred an order of the House of the 28th of January, directing them to "inquire into the expediency of reducing the expenses of, modifying or abolishing the Board of Education," have considered the same, and respectfully

### REPORT:

According to the Report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, (House Doc. No. 9,) the expenses of the Board of Education, from its establishment to the 1st of Jan. 1841, have been \$9,708 24, including printing. The printing, according to the same report, includes the annual School Abstract: and, it adds, "similar abstracts were, however, annually printed and distributed agreeably to law, previous to the establishment of the Board of Education." As the Board on the 1st of Jan. had been three years and a half in operation, its annual expenses, including a portion of printing which is not strictly chargeable to it, have been at the rate of \$2,773 77.

These expenses can be much reduced, by printing the Abstract of the Massachusetts School Returns in a more condensed form, and with fewer selections from the reports of school committees. That it is the intention of the Secretary of their Board to do this, may be inferred from the following sentence of his report, dated Aug. 15th, 1840, and which may be found on the 4th page of the Abstract lately published. The

Secretary remarks, “the great object of ascertaining the present state of our schools having now been obtained, it is obvious, that, if the precedent of making selections from the school committees’ reports should be followed hereafter, these selections may be much more brief and special, than heretofore;—only such parts of them being taken as present new and valuable matter.”

The expense of the last Abstract was, as nearly as we can ascertain, thirteen hundred dollars. The Secretary of the Board informs us, that he does not think it will be necessary, for the reason given in the sentence just quoted, to publish an Abstract, at least for some years to come, more than one fourth or one fifth as large as the last, and costing not more than three or four hundred dollars, very little more than the expense of the Abstract which was required by law before the establishment of the Board.

The Committee, believing that the annual expenses of the Board will be so far reduced as to bring what is properly chargeable to them within the sum of two thousand dollars, and not thinking that the Board ought to be abolished, or that it needs any modification,—report that no legislation on the subject of the order is necessary.

JOHN A. SHAW, *Chairman.*

## MINORITY REPORT.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 18, 1841.

The undersigned, a minority of the Committee on Education, to whom was referred an order of the 28th ult., instructing them to inquire into the expediency of reducing the expenses of, modifying or abolishing the Board of Education, not concurring in the conclusion arrived at by the majority of the Committee, deem it their duty to propose an essential modification of the Board, and for this purpose they respectfully report the accompanying bill.

ALLEN W. DODGE,  
JAMES FRANCIS,  
JOHN TYLER.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-one.

### AN ACT

Relating to the Board of Education and the Normal  
Schools.

**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. The act passed April 20, 1837, entitled  
2 "An Act relating to Common Schools," and providing  
3 for the appointment of a Board of Education, and a  
4 Secretary thereof, and fixing the duties of said Board  
5 and its Secretary, is hereby repealed.

1 SEC. 2. The act passed March 31, 1838, entitled  
2 "An Act to defray the expenses of the Board of Ed-  
3 ucation," and also the act passed April 21, 1838, en-  
4 titled "An Act to prescribe the duties and fix the  
5 compensation of the Board of Education," are hereby  
6 repealed.

1 SEC. 3. So much of the act passed April 13, 1838,  
2 entitled "An Act concerning Schools," as authorizes

3 the Board of Education to prescribe a blank form of  
4 school register, and also so much of said act as author-  
5 izes the Board of Education to prescribe the form of  
6 the blanks and inquiries for the school returns, is  
7 hereby repealed; and said returns shall hereafter be  
8 made according to the blanks and inquiries contained  
9 in the act passed April 19, 1837, entitled "An Act  
10 concerning the returns of Common Schools."

1 SEC. 4. So much of the act passed April 13, 1838,  
2 entitled "An Act concerning Schools," as requires  
3 that the abstract of school returns shall be made up  
4 under the direction of the Board of Education, is here-  
5 by repealed; and said abstract shall hereafter be made  
6 up by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

1 SEC. 5. The duties and authority assigned to the  
2 Board of Education, in the resolves passed April 19,  
3 1838, entitled "Resolves relative to qualifying teach-  
4 ers for Common Schools," and providing for the estab-  
5 lishment and support of Normal Schools, are hereby  
6 transferred to the Governor and Council, and the du-  
7 ties assigned to the Secretary of the Board in said  
8 resolves, are transferred to the Secretary of the Com-  
9 monwealth. And for this purpose the Governor and  
10 Council are constituted the Board of Education, and  
11 the Secretary of the Commonwealth is constituted the  
12 Secretary of the Board of Education.

1 SEC. 6. For visiting the Normal Schools, the mem-  
2 bers of the Council shall receive each at the rate of  
3 one dollar for every ten miles actually travelled, and  
4 two dollars a day for the time employed in the visita-  
5 tions.



