

In meeting of School Committee June 7. 1853.  
Ordered, That the Mayor and City-Council of the City of  
Cambridge be respectfully requested to take measures for  
carrying into effect an "Act entitled an Act concerning truant  
children and absentees from school," approved by the Governor  
of this Commonwealth May 3<sup>d</sup> 1850.

Attest,

M. Clarke Secretary

Communication from the Mayor. -

City of Cambridge, June 28. 1853.

Gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen,  
and of the Common Council;

I herewith submit for your consideration an order, adopted by the School Committee on the 7th. inst. requesting that measures may be taken by the City Council for carrying into effect an act of the Legislature, passed May 3. 1850, entitled "an act concerning truant children and absentees from school."

A similar request by the School Committee of the last year, was referred to the Committee on Public Instruction, who reported, that they did not think it expedient for the City to adopt the act, at that time. No reasons were assigned in the report which had induced the Committee to come to that conclusion; and it is believed that no hearing was had on the subject, ~~which~~<sup>as</sup> would doubtless have been the case, had any been requested by the School

Committee.

The School Committee are possessed of many facts which they could present to satisfy the City Council of the urgent necessity of adopting, and without unnecessary delay, some efficient measures to correct the alarming evils of truancy, and save the community from the deplorable consequences which are sure to follow from suffering a large number of children, of both sexes, to grow up amongst us, without any of the advantages of common school instruction, and in habits of idleness, vagrancy and vice.

The law of 1850 has been modified by two subsequent acts, one passed May 20, 1852, and the other on the 10th of May last.

Though the order of the School <sup>Committee</sup>, doubtless through inadvertence, refers only to the law of 1850, any action of the City Council, for carrying its provisions into effect, must necessarily have reference to the subsequent legislation on the same subject.

James D. Green,  
Mayor.

(over)

In Board of Aldermen 28 June 1853.

Referred to the joint Committee on Public  
Instruction and sent down for concurrence.

Lucius R. Paige, City Clerk.

In Common Council, June 24<sup>th</sup> 1853  
Concurred.

Chas W. Sumner. Clk

Commission from  
the Mayor &  
order of the Council  
on Jersey. —

28 June 1853

An Ordinance  
In relation to Truant Children and  
Absentees from School.

Be it ordained by the City Council  
of the city of Cambridge, as follows:

Section 1 The City of Cambridge hereby  
adopts the two hundred and sixty  
fourth chapter of the laws of this  
Commonwealth, for the year One  
Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty,  
entitled "An Act concerning Truant  
Children and Absentees from School,"  
and the act in addition thereto,  
passed the twentieth day of May,  
in the year One Thousand Eight  
Hundred and Fifty-two, and avails  
itself of the provisions of said acts.

Section 2. Any minor between the ages  
of six and fifteen years, who has  
not attended school in conformity  
to the laws of this Commonwealth,  
all habitual truants, and absentees

from school, all children that are about the streets begging, or trespassing upon lands, gardens, or orchards upon conviction of any offence herein described, shall be punished by fine not exceeding twenty dollars; or instead thereof, by being committed to the Alms House at the discretion of the Justice of the Peace having jurisdiction of the case, for such time as said Justice of the Peace may determine, not exceeding one year. Provided, however, that any minor convicted of either of the offences herein ~~named~~ mentioned, may be discharged by such Justice of the Peace, according to the provisions of the said acts.

Section 3 The several Justices of the Peace for the county of Middlesex, residing within the City of Cambridge, shall have jurisdiction of the offences herein set forth, and the Alms House is hereby assigned and provided as the institution of instruction, house of

reformation, or suitable situation  
mentioned in said acts,

Section 4 The Mayor and Alderman shall  
forthwith after the passage of this  
Ordinance, and hereafter in the month  
of January annually appoint three or  
more ~~suitable~~ persons to make complaints  
in every case of violation of this Ordinance,  
to the said Justices of Peace in conformity  
to the provisions of said acts.

Section 5 This Ordinance shall take effect  
from and after its passage and  
approved by the Court of Common  
Pleas for the County of Middlesex

*An Ordinance  
relating to Truant Children  
and Absentees from School*

*In Board of Aldermen 19 Dec. 1853 -  
Passed to be enrolled, and  
sent down for concurrence,  
Lucius R. Paige, City Clerk*

*In Common Council  
December 28. 1853  
Passed to be enrolled,  
in Concurrence,  
Chas M Dunbar, clk*

In Board of Mayor & Aldermen Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 1853  
The Committee on Public Instruction to whom was  
referred the communication of the Mayor & School Com-  
mittee on January 2<sup>d</sup> have considered the subject and  
respectfully report the accompanying ordinance for  
ordination.

Geo W Livermore  
John W. Donellan  
John Sargent  
Chas. H. Saunders

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Touant Legislature  
Report  
and Ordinances  
19 Dec 1853