

ARTICLE XXIII.

CORPORATIONS.

CHAPTER 587.

AN ACT to prohibit the employment by telegraph, telephone or messenger companies as messengers of any person or persons under fourteen years of age; to prohibit the employment of boys under sixteen years of age between the hours of eight o'clock P. M. and eight o'clock A. M. by said companies; to prohibit the calling for message at or the delivery of messages to any house of ill repute or disorderly character by any minor in the employ of the said companies.

Whereas, the telegraph, telephone and messenger companies have in their employ boys of tender years for the purpose of delivering telegrams and other messages at various points, and in the pursuit of this employment those engaged therein are often required to visit places of questionable reputation, come in contact with persons of immoral character and witness scenes tending to inflame, corrupt and demoralize the youthful mind; and

Whereas, the employment of minors in such occupations should be prohibited,

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That no telegraph, telephone or messenger company employ any person under fourteen years of age to call for or deliver any message.

SEC. 2. That no telegraph, telephone or messenger company shall require or permit any person in its employ under sixteen years of age to call for or deliver any telegram or other message between the hours of eight o'clock P. M. and eight o'clock A. M.

SEC. 3. That no telegraph, telephone or messenger company shall require or permit any minor person in its employ to call for or deliver any telegram or other message at or to any house of ill repute or questionable character wherein is conducted any business tending to demoralize by example or contact said minor.

SEC. 4. Any company or representative thereof who shall violate the provisions of this bill shall be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or sixty days in jail or both, at the discretion of the court, for each and every offense.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 8, 1910.