

Chap. 356 AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE CARE OF INDIGENT AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

Search to be made by cities and towns for indigent and neglected children.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of truant officers in cities and of the overseers of the poor in towns, as often as may be deemed necessary by them, to make diligent search throughout their respective cities and towns for children under the age of sixteen who are suffering want through poverty, privation or from the neglect of their parents or guardians, or of any other persons having them in charge, or from any cause whatsoever.

Temporary care to be provided.

SECTION 2. Where such children are found without parents or guardians or in charge of such parents or guardians as in the judgment of the officers or overseers aforesaid are unfit to care for children by reason of mental incapacity, dissolute habits or poverty, it shall be the duty of the officers and overseers aforesaid to provide for the temporary care of such children, until proceedings may be had against them if necessary, according to the provisions of chapter three hundred and thirty-four of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and three.

Payment of expenses.

SECTION 3. Reasonable expenses incurred by the officers and overseers aforesaid in furnishing aid as provided by this act shall be paid by the city or town wherein the persons have legal settlements, and, if they are without settlement, by the Commonwealth, after approval by the state board of charity ; and notice in writing shall be sent to the place of settlement or, if such persons are unsettled, to the state board of charity as is otherwise provided by law.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved May 20, 1904.

Chap. 357 AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF WAITING ROOMS BY STREET RAILWAY COMPANIES AND TO THE INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST SUCH COMPANIES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

R. L. 111, § 15, amended.

SECTION 1. Section fifteen of chapter one hundred and eleven of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by inserting after the word " railroad ", in the second line, the words : — or street railway, — and by inserting after the

word "houses", in the third line, the words : — or waiting rooms. — so as to read as follows : — *Section 15.* If the board is of opinion that repairs are necessary upon any railroad or street railway, or that an addition to its rolling stock, or an addition to or change of its stations or station houses or waiting rooms, or a change in its rates of fares for transporting freight or passengers or in the mode of operating its road and conducting its business, is reasonable and expedient in order to promote the security, convenience and accommodation of the public, it shall in writing inform the corporation of the improvements and changes which it recommends should be made.

Railroad commissioners to give notice of necessary repairs, etc.

SECTION 2. Section sixteen of said chapter is hereby amended by inserting after the word "railroad", in the third, fourth and sixteenth lines, the words : — or street railway, — so as to read as follows : — *Section 16.* Upon the application of the mayor and aldermen of a city or the selectmen of a town within which a part of any railroad or street railway is located, alleging grounds of complaint, the board shall examine the condition and operation of such railroad or street railway ; and if, upon the petition in writing of twenty or more legal voters in such city or town to the mayor and aldermen or selectmen to make such application, they refuse so to do, they shall indorse upon the petition the reason of such refusal and return it to the petitioners, who may, within ten days thereafter, present it to the board and it may thereupon make such examination as if called upon by the mayor and aldermen or the selectmen, first giving to the petitioners and to the corporation reasonable notice in writing of the time and place of making such examination. If, upon such examination, it appears to the board that the complaint is well founded, it shall so adjudge, and shall in writing inform the corporation which operates such railroad or street railway of its adjudication.

R. L. III, § 16, amended.

Railroad commissioners to examine condition, etc., of railroads or street railways upon application, etc.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
Approved May 20, 1904.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR IMPROVING THE ENTRANCE TO THE HARBOR OF COTUIT IN THE TOWN OF BARNSTABLE.

Chap. 358

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

SECTION 1. The board of harbor and land commissioners is hereby directed, if in its opinion after a preliminary

Harbor and land commissioners may