

HOUSE No. 1253

By Mr. Brown of Abington, petition of Walter V. McCarthy for legislation relative to visitations of certain persons receiving assistance. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO VISITATIONS OF CERTAIN PERSONS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE.

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 seven of chapter one hundred and twenty-
2 one of the General Laws is hereby amended by strik-
3 ing out in the first line the words "shall at least once
4 a year" and inserting in place thereof the words:—
5 may at any time, — and by striking out in the eighth
6 line the words "state infirmary" and inserting in
7 place thereof the words:— Tewksbury State Hospital
8 and Infirmary, — so that said section will read as
9 follows:— *Section 7.* The department may at any
10 time visit all places where persons who have no legal
11 settlement are supported, and ascertain from actual
12 examination and inquiry whether the laws relative
13 to such persons are properly observed, particularly
14 in relation to such as are able to labor; and shall give
15 such directions as will insure correctness in the returns
16 required in relation to persons aided; and may use

17 necessary means to collect information relative to
18 their support. It shall visit the Tewksbury State
19 Hospital and Infirmary and the Lyman school for
20 boys, for the purpose of inspection, at least once a
21 month, and, by women appointed for the purpose,
22 may at all hours of the day or night have access to
23 the portions of said infirmary occupied by the women
24 or children there maintained at public expense, and
25 may require from the officers of institution information
26 concerning the condition and treatment of the in-
27 mates. It shall visit all infirmaries maintained in
28 towns. It shall visit and inspect, at least once a year,
29 every wayfarers' lodge and every public lodging house
30 in the commonwealth, and for this purpose may
31 enter upon any premises where such lodge or lodging
32 house is maintained at any time of the day or night.
33 It shall upon the request or with the consent of a
34 charitable corporation which, under section twelve
35 of chapter one hundred and eighty, is required to
36 make an annual report to said department, at least
37 once a year visit and inspect the institution or investi-
38 gate the work of such corporation. It may visit and
39 inspect all places where persons are supported in
40 families by towns.