

By Mr. Nathanson of Boston, petition of Edward E. Cohen and others that a board composed of three psychiatrists be created by justices of certain courts for the purpose of examining defendants accused of crime to determine their need of psychiatric treatment. The Judiciary.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

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AN ACT CREATING A BOARD COMPOSED OF THREE PSYCHIATRISTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXAMINING DEFENDANTS ACCUSED OF CRIME TO DETERMINE THEIR NEED OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 The chief justices of the district courts, municipal  
2 courts, and superior court shall be empowered to  
3 appoint three psychiatrists to sit as a board for the  
4 purpose of examining and determining the need of  
5 defendants accused of a criminal offence of psychi-  
6 atric care when such defendants are ordered by the  
7 court to submit to such examination. This board  
8 shall be empowered to make recommendations to the  
9 court after investigation and examination as to the  
10 need of hospitalization and psychiatric care and at-  
11 tention as in their opinion shall be the need of such  
12 defendant, and the court, acting upon the recom-

13 mendation of this board may order the defendant, if  
 14 and when found guilty of the crime accused to con-  
 15 finement in a hospital or institution recommended  
 16 by said board for a period of time necessary to effect  
 17 their treatment and/or cure in lieu of sentence to  
 18 confinement in a penal institution. The chief justices  
 19 shall be empowered to award reasonable fees to the  
 20 psychiatrists serving under the provisions of this act.

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