

HOUSE No. 2540

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 33, March 12, 1954.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

I am enclosing herewith proposed legislation under the provisions of chapter 7, section 7, of the General Laws, "An Act Relative to Disposition of Unclaimed Funds of Patients who have Died in State Mental Institutions."

I would appreciate your filing this bill with the proper committee.

Very truly yours,

CARL A. SHERIDAN,
Commissioner of Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED FUNDS OF PATIENTS WHO HAVE DIED IN STATE MENTAL INSTI- TUTIONS.

*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 39A of chapter 123 of the General Laws, as
2 amended by section 2 of chapter 291 of the acts of
3 1936, is hereby further amended by inserting in
4 line 5 after the word "department" the words:—
5 and such funds amounting to less than one hundred
6 dollars belonging to patients who have died, — so that
7 the first sentence will read as follows:— So much
8 of any funds known as "Patients' Funds" as repre-
9 sents moneys belonging to, or deposited for the benefit
10 of, patients who have been discharged or have escaped
11 from any state hospital or from the custody of the
12 department, and such funds amounting to less than
13 one hundred dollars belonging to patients who have
14 died, which shall have remained unclaimed for more
15 than seven years, shall be paid by the superintendent
16 of such state hospital or by the commissioner to the
17 state treasurer to be held subject to be paid to the
18 person establishing a lawful right thereto, with
19 interest at the rate of three per cent per annum
20 from the time when it was so paid to the state treas-
21 urer to the time when it is paid by him to such per-
22 son; provided, that so much of any moneys so paid
23 to the state treasurer as may be necessary to re-
24 imburse the department for any sum due for the sup-
25 port of the person by whom, or for whose benefit,
26 such money was originally deposited, shall be credited
27 to the department for that purpose.