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By Mr. Sheldon of Milton (by request), petition of Jessie M. MacDonald for legislation relative to the payment for support of inmates of certain state mental hospitals. Public Welfare.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PAYMENT FOR SUPPORT OF INMATES OF CERTAIN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

*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 96 of chapter 123 of the General Laws is hereby  
2 amended by striking out the first paragraph, as most  
3 recently amended by section 4 of chapter 598 of the  
4 acts of 1954, and inserting in place thereof the following  
5 paragraph: —

6 The price for the support of inmates of state hospitals,  
7 except for insane inmates of the Tewksbury state hos-  
8 pital and infirmary and of the Bridgewater state hos-  
9 pital shall be determined for each person by the depart-  
10 ment on the basis of the actual weekly cost of care as  
11 determined by the commission on administration and  
12 finance annually on or before October first in each year  
13 for each person, and may be recovered of such persons  
14 or of the husband, wife, father, mother or child, if of  
15 sufficient ability. Guardians of inmates shall be re-  
16 quired to make regular payments for the support of  
17 their wards in such sums as the department may deter-  
18 mine. Insurance policies on the lives of inmates, shall,  
19 upon the commitment of the insured, be surrendered  
20 for their cash surrender value and the sum so realized  
21 shall be used for the further support of the inmate. A  
22 married woman shall be subject to the said liability as  
23 though sole. Such action shall be brought by the at-  
24 torney general in the name of the state treasurer.

It shall be the duty of the several officers of the State to see that the provisions of this act are faithfully executed, and that the public interest is promoted in all respects.

### The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Town of Boston, this 1st day of January, 1854.

THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, in and for the said Commonwealth, do hereby enact and declare,

That the following be and the same be the laws of the said Commonwealth, to have full force and effect from and after the first day of January, next ensuing, and of the validity of the same, as if they had been actually passed on the first day of January, next ensuing:

1. That the several officers of the State shall be sworn to the faithful execution of their offices, before the first day of January, next ensuing.
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