

HOUSE . . . . . No. 113

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH,  
BOSTON 8, September 22, 1958.

Hon. EDWARD J. CRONIN, *Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

DEAR SIR: — I would appreciate your accepting the attached as the portion of the Department of Mental Health's Annual Report pertaining to recommendations for legislative action.

I am unable to submit the complete Annual Report, as the figures on fiscal matters as yet are not available.

Very truly yours,

JACK R. EWALT, M.D.,  
*Commissioner.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO TAKE OR PURCHASE LAND IN THE CITY OF BOSTON FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPANDING THE MASSACHUSETTS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER.

To allow the taking of land in the vicinity of the present Massachusetts Mental Health Center thereby avoiding the possibilities of encroachment on institution property and to provide for the future expansion of institution activities when funds are made available.

2. AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF EACH INSTITUTION TO ENDORSE AND DEPOSIT CHECKS BELONGING TO PATIENTS.

Patients admitted to mental institutions occasionally have checks in their possession which they refuse or are unable to endorse, and which are not sufficient in amount to warrant guardianship proceedings. Endorsement of these checks by the Commissioner or superintendents of each institution for deposit only to the credit of the patient will prevent the possibility of loss of the funds which could occur by the outlawing of the instrument by the statute of limitations, or by cancellation of the instrument by the maker.

3. AN ACT TO CONFIRM THE TITLE OF THE COMMONWEALTH AS TO CERTAIN LAND AT THE DANVERS STATE HOSPITAL.

A section of the enclosure around the Danvers State Hospital has been removed allowing access to the state property on the assumption that the barrier prevented the use of an area claimed to be "Putnam Lane."

A search of the records by the office of the Attorney General has determined that a "Putnam Lane" did exist, but its location cannot be accurately determined; also, in the deed of the Commonwealth's land (Danvers State Hospital) no mention is made of the road called "Putnam Lane." For more than one hundred years there has not been any use of a road known as "Putnam Lane."

The removal of the sections of the enclosure has created a security problem at the institution which will become more acute with the increased use by the general public.