

# HOUSE . . . . No. 2503

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 2, 1953.

The committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 216) of Thomas E. Key relative to custody and delivery of money or other personal property found upon or near a dead body, report the accompanying bill (House, No. 2503).

For the committee,

EDMOND J. DONLAN.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO CUSTODY AND DELIVERY OF MONEY  
OR OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY FOUND UPON OR NEAR  
A DEAD BODY.

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

1 Chapter 38 of the General Laws is hereby amended  
2 by inserting in place of section 18 the following sec-  
3 tion:—  
4 *Section 18.* The medical examiner or an associate  
5 medical examiner or their agent or agents shall take  
6 charge of any money or other property of the deceased  
7 found on or near the body in the presence of a relative  
8 of the deceased, or in the presence of a police officer  
9 of the city or town in which the body is located, and  
10 give said relative or police officer a receipt for said  
11 property, and deliver the said property to the person  
12 entitled to its custody or possession, or, if not claimed  
13 within sixty days, to a public administrator. For  
14 fraudulent neglect or refusal to give said receipt at  
15 the time of the taking of said property, or so to deliver  
16 such property within three days after demand, a  
17 medical examiner or an associate medical examiner  
18 shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hun-  
19 dred dollars or by imprisonment for not more than  
20 two years.