

SENATE No. 783

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SENATE, April 8, 1964.

The committee on bills in the Third Reading to which was referred the Senate Bill providing that records kept by hospitals, dispensaries or clinics, and sanatoria supported by the commonwealth shall be admissible in evidence (Senate, No. 188), reports recommending that the same be amended by substituting therefor a new draft entitled "An Act providing that records shall be kept by hospitals, dispensaries or clinics, and sanatoria supported by the commonwealth and that such records shall be admissible in evidence" (Senate, No. 783), and that, when so amended, the same will be correctly drawn.

For the committee,

F. X. McCANN.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT RECORDS SHALL BE KEPT BY HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES OR CLINICS, AND SANATORIA SUPPORTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH AND THAT SUCH RECORDS SHALL BE ADMISSIBLE IN EVIDENCE.

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 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
2 striking out section 70, as most recently amended by chapter
3 23 of the acts of 1963, and inserting in place thereof the
4 following section: —

5 *Section 70.* Hospitals, dispensaries or clinics, and sanatoria
6 licensed by the department of public health or supported in
7 whole or in part by the commonwealth shall keep records of
8 the treatment of the cases under their care and the medical
9 history of the same. Such records may be made in hand-
10 writing, or in print, or by typewriting, or by the photographic
11 or microphotographic process, or any combination of the same.
12 Whenever pre-existing records shall have been photographed
13 or microphotographed and the photographs or microphoto-
14 graphs shall have been duly indexed and filed, such hospital,
15 dispensary or clinic, or sanatorium, upon notifying in writing
16 the supervisor of public records referred to in chapter sixty-
17 six, may destroy the original records so photographed or
18 microphotographed, and such photographs or microphoto-
19 graphs shall have the same force or effect as the original
20 records from which they were made. Such records shall be
21 in the custody of such hospital, dispensary or clinic, or sana-
22 torium. Section ten of chapter sixty-six shall not apply to
23 such records; provided, that such records and similar records
24 kept by such hospital, dispensary or clinic, or sanatorium
25 may be inspected by the patient to whom they relate or by

26 his attorney upon delivery of a written authorization from
27 the said patient, and a copy shall be furnished upon his re-
28 quest and a payment of a reasonable fee; and provided, fur-
29 ther, that upon proper judicial order, whether in connection
30 with pending judicial proceedings or otherwise, or, except in
31 the case of records of hospitals under the control of the de-
32 partment of mental health, upon order of the head of the state
33 department which issues the license or of the head of the
34 state department having jurisdiction or control of such hos-
35 pital, dispensary or clinic, or sanatorium and in compliance
36 with the terms of said order, such records may be inspected
37 and copies furnished on payment of a reasonable fee. Any
38 such record or any part or portion thereof may be destroyed
39 fifty-five years after the discharge or the final treatment
40 therein of the patient to whom it relates.

It is interesting that history of a writer's relationship to his work is not a very well understood subject. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his life, and how far it is a reflection of his inner world. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his time, and how far it is a reflection of his individuality. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his society, and how far it is a reflection of his personal experience. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his culture, and how far it is a reflection of his personal beliefs. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his education, and how far it is a reflection of his personal interests. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his family, and how far it is a reflection of his personal aspirations. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his friends, and how far it is a reflection of his personal goals. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his enemies, and how far it is a reflection of his personal fears. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his admirers, and how far it is a reflection of his personal hopes. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his detractors, and how far it is a reflection of his personal doubts. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his readers, and how far it is a reflection of his personal desires. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his critics, and how far it is a reflection of his personal needs. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his audience, and how far it is a reflection of his personal values. It is not clear how far a writer's work is a reflection of his world, and how far it is a reflection of his personal identity.

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