

HOUSE No. 1042

By Mr. Herter of Boston, petition of Henry R. Atkinson (president of the Massachusetts Civic League, Inc.) that certain qualifications be established for the positions of commissioner and associate commissioner of the Department of Mental Diseases. State Administration.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven.

An Act establishing Certain Qualifications for the Position of Commissioner of the Department of Mental Diseases and Certain Associate Commissioners of Said Department.

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 nineteen of the General Laws, as appear-
2 ing in the Tercentenary Edition thereof, is hereby
3 amended by striking out section one and inserting
4 in place thereof the following:—

5 *Section 1.* There shall be a department of mental
6 diseases, consisting of the commissioner of mental
7 diseases and four associate commissioners. The com-
8 missioner and at least two associate commissioners
9 shall be physicians who shall have had not less than
10 ten years' experience in the actual practice of their
11 profession, including five or more years' experience
12 in the care and treatment of persons afflicted with

13 mental diseases either as psychiatrists in hospital or
14 general practice or as superintendents or assistant
15 superintendents of institutions for the care and
16 treatment of such persons. The commissioner, more-
17 over, shall be a person who has had broad adminis-
18 trative experience equivalent to at least five years in
19 the position of assistant superintendent of a large
20 mental hospital, or of superintendent of such a hos-
21 pital, or of assistant commissioner of the department,
22 or in any two or more of said positions.