

# HOUSE . . . . No. 1674

---

---

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 14, 1945.

The committee on Public Welfare, to whom was referred so much of the recommendations of the Commissioner of Correction (House, No. 58) as relates to medical treatment of prisoners afflicted with communicable diseases (accompanied by bill, House, No. 60), report the accompanying bill (House, No. 1674).

For the committee,

MARGARET L. SPEAR.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Five.

### AN ACT RELATIVE TO MEDICAL TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AFFLICTED WITH COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

*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 one hundred and eleven of the General  
2 Laws is hereby amended by striking out section one  
3 hundred and twenty-one, as appearing in the Ter-  
4 centenary Edition, and inserting in place thereof the  
5 following:—

6 *Section 121.* An inmate of a public charitable in-  
7 stitution or a prisoner in a penal institution who is  
8 afflicted with syphilis, gonorrhoea or pulmonary  
9 tuberculosis, shall be forthwith placed under medical  
10 treatment, and if, in the opinion of the attending  
11 physician, it is necessary, he shall be isolated until  
12 danger of contagion is passed or the physician deter-  
13 mines his isolation unnecessary.

14 If at the expiration of a prisoner's sentence he is  
15 afflicted with syphilis, gonorrhoea or pulmonary  
16 tuberculosis in its contagious or infectious stages, or  
17 if, in the opinion of the attending physician of the  
18 institution or of such physician as the authorities  
19 thereof may consult, his release would be dangerous  
20 to public health, he shall be placed under medical  
21 treatment in the institution where he has been con-

22 fined. Thereupon the authorities of such institution  
23 shall notify the department of public welfare of his  
24 condition and said department shall provide for his  
25 hospitalization and medical care at an institution  
26 until, in the opinion of the attending physician of the  
27 institution wherein he is being treated, the symptoms  
28 have disappeared and his release will not endanger  
29 the public health. Notice of a prisoner's release  
30 hereunder to the department of public welfare shall  
31 be made to the department of public health. The  
32 expense of his support, not exceeding three dollars  
33 and fifty cents a week, shall be paid by the town where  
34 he has a settlement, after notice of the expiration of  
35 his sentence and of his condition to the board of public  
36 welfare thereof, or, if he is a state charge, by the com-  
37 monwealth after like notice to the department of  
38 public welfare.

