

HOUSE No. 2248

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, May 22, 1916.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I return herewith without my approval engrossed bill entitled "An Act Relative to the Worcester State Asylum." (See Senate Bill No. 212.)

Chapter 679 of the Acts of 1912 authorized the construction of suitable buildings at the Grafton Colony for the accommodation of four hundred patients then cared for at the Worcester State Asylum, and authorized an issue of bonds to be known as the Grafton Hospital Loan, not to exceed in the aggregate \$400,000. The accompanying bill seeks to repeal all of Chapter 679 of the Acts of 1912.

Many of those bonds are still unpaid and outstanding. Although of course the General Court is powerless to enact legislation which would in any way invalidate any bonds of the Commonwealth, still in view of the unfailing endeavors of Massachusetts to maintain her credit at all times, making interest payments in gold even during the stormiest days of the Civil War, — I should hesitate to affix my signature to a measure which would seem to disregard the inviolability of the Commonwealth's bonds. The credit of the Commonwealth has been pledged, and nothing should be done which might appear to embarrass the holders of these bonds in collecting either the interest or principal thereon. I feel sure that the Legislature had no such intention.

The accompanying bill appears to be broader in its scope than those seeking new legislation in the matter recommended. The apparent purpose of the State Board of

Insanity in recommending legislation was to avoid the necessity existing under the present law for the removal of four hundred patients from the Worcester State Asylum to the Grafton State Asylum before January 1, 1917.

The date for transfer originally fixed was January 1, 1915, which by two successive amendments has been extended to January 1, 1917. It would seem, therefore, that the time for transfer might be further extended until the necessary accommodations were available at the Metropolitan State Hospital or elsewhere, and that the other provisions of Chapter 679 of the Acts of 1912 should remain in force; and I am submitting herewith in another message my recommendations to that effect.

SAMUEL W. McCALL.