The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen.

AN ACT

Relative to County Tuberculosis Hospitals.

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

1 Section 1. Section one of chapter two hundred and eighty-six of the General Acts of the year nineteen hundred and sixteen, as amended by chapter two hundred and eighty-seven of the General Acts of the year nineteen hundred and eighteen, is hereby further amended by striking out the word "nineteen", in the last line, and inserting in place thereof the word: — twenty-one,

9 — so as to read as follows: — Section 1. The county commissioners of each county in the commonwealth, except Suffolk, Nantucket and Dukes county, are hereby authorized and directed to provide adequate hospital care for all those persons residing in cities or towns having less than fifty thousand population, as determined by the
latest United States census, within the boundaries of their respective counties and suffering from consumption, who are in need of such hospital care and for whom adequate hospital provision does not already exist. The said hospital provision shall be available for patients on or before the first day of January, nineteen hundred and eighteen; but if, in order to comply with the provisions of this section, it is necessary for any county to construct a new building at an expense exceeding ten thousand dollars, including any necessary payments for land, or to make substantial additions to or alterations in an existing building at an expense exceeding ten thousand dollars, such new construction, addition or alteration need not be completed until the first day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty-one.

Section 2. Section two of chapter two hundred and eighty-six of the General Acts of the year nineteen hundred and sixteen, as amended by chapter two hundred and fifty-one of the General Acts of the year nineteen hundred and seventeen, and by chapter two hundred and eighty-seven of the General Acts of the year nineteen hundred and eighteen, is hereby further amended by striking out the word "nineteen", in the second line, and inserting in place thereof the word: — twenty-one, — so as to read as follows:

Section 2. A contract entered into before April first of the year nineteen hundred and twenty-one for a term of years not less than five
nor more than twenty-five, and approved by the
state department of health after a petition made
to the said department and a public hearing
thereon, between (a) boards of county commis-
sioners of two adjoining counties, or (b) boards of
county commissioners of any county and the
legally constituted authorities of any city within
the same county, or (c) either county commis-
sioners or the legally constituted authorities of
cities of fifty thousand or more inhabitants and
the trustees and authorities of any existing or
future privately endowed tuberculosis institution,
or the trustee of any fund available for the pur-
pose of supplying hospital facilities for persons
suffering from consumption, for the express pur-
pose of supplying, within a reasonable time as
provided in the conditions of approval of the state
department of health, and guaranteeing adequate
hospital provision for consumptives coming under
the provisions of this act, shall be held to be satis-
factory compliance with the provisions of this act
for such counties, sections of counties, or for such
cities or classes of individuals, as the case may be,
as are designated in the contract; and such con-
tracts shall, subject to the approval of the state
department of health, be renewable upon such
terms as shall be satisfactory to the contracting
parties: provided, however, that if such contracts
are not renewed and approved by the state de-
partment of health at least nine months before
their expiration, or if the contracts are renewed
and the state department of health shall refuse
47 approval on the ground that by reason of changed
48 circumstances the contract will be inadequate
49 properly to protect the public health of the com-
50 munities affected by it, and the contracting parties
51 fail within six months before the time when the
52 previous contract expires to agree to a renewal of
53 the contract upon terms approved by the state
54 department of health, the duties and obligations
55 relative to supplying adequate hospital care for
56 such counties, or sections of counties, cities or
57 classes of individuals imposed upon county com-
58 missioners and city governments by this act shall
59 be in full force and effect.

1 Section 3. Section three of chapter two hun-
2 dred and eighty-six of the General Acts of the
3 year nineteen hundred and sixteen is hereby
4 amended by striking out the word "two", in the
5 third line, and inserting the word: —four,— so
6 as to read as follows: — Section 3. "Adequate"
7 hospital provision for consumptives within the
8 meaning of this act shall be held to mean at least
9 one such hospital bed for each four deaths from
10 consumption in the county, counties, parts of a
11 county, or cities served by such hospitals, as the
12 case may be, as determined by computing the
13 average number of deaths from consumption per
14 annum for the years nineteen hundred and eleven
15 to nineteen hundred and fifteen, inclusive, in the
16 communities served by such hospitals, and by a
17 similar quinquennial computation by the state
18 department of health thereafter.