

Bill accompanying the petition of Joseph S. Gates that the unjust confinement of persons alleged to be insane be prohibited. Legal Affairs. January 15.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifteen.

AN ACT

Relative to the Commitment and Retention of the Insane.

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. No person shall be committed to or re-
2 tained in an insane asylum in case his relatives or friends
3 are willing to take upon themselves the safe and suitable
4 care of such person, unless it is established by sufficient
5 proof that there would be danger to the public if such
6 person were not committed to or retained in some institu-
7 tion for the insane. No person who has friends or rela-
8 tives who are prepared to care for him as aforesaid shall,
9 against his will, be committed to or retained in an insane
10 hospital or any other place of detention except after trial
11 in a municipal court having jurisdiction of the place
12 where such person lives, and if the decision of the court
13 is that the person shall be confined he may appeal, or his
14 friends or relatives on his behalf may appeal, to the
15 superior court as in a criminal case.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

