

By Mr. Crowther of Fall River, petition of Thomas C. Crowther for an amendment of the law relative to payment for medical services in connection with industrial accidents. Judiciary (Joint). Jan. 14, 1924.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Four.

An Act relative to the Payment of Medical Services under
The Workmen's Compensation Laws.

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 thirty of chapter one hundred and fifty-two of
2 the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out in
3 the third line the words "in unusual cases", — so as
4 to read as follows:— *Section 30.* During the first two
5 weeks after the injury, and, if the employee is not im-
6 mediately incapacitated thereby from earning full wages,
7 then from the time of such incapacity, and, in the dis-
8 cretion of the department, for a longer period, the insurer
9 shall furnish adequate and reasonable medical and hospi-
10 tal services, and medicines if needed. The employee
11 may select a physician other than the one provided by
12 the insurer; and in case he shall be treated by a physi-
13 cian of his own selection, or where, in case of emergency
14 or for other justifiable cause, a physician other than the
15 one provided by the insurer is called in to treat the
16 injured employee, the reasonable cost of his services
17 shall be paid by the insurer, subject to the approval of
18 the department. Such approval shall be granted only if

19 the department finds that the employee was so treated
20 by such physician or that there was such emergency or
21 justifiable cause, and in all cases that the services were
22 adequate and reasonable and the charges reasonable.
23 In any case where the department is of opinion that the
24 fitting of the employee with an artificial eye or limb, or
25 other mechanical appliance, will promote his restoration
26 to industry, it may order that he be provided with such
27 an artificial eye, limb or appliance, at the expense of
28 the insurer.