

By Mr. Brennan of Boston, petition of James M. Brennan that employees injured in industrial accidents be allowed reasonable compensation for care and nursing either in hospitals or at their homes. Labor and Industries.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty.

An Act relative to Medical and Other Expenses by Persons entitled to Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Law.

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
2 of the General Laws, as amended by section five of
3 chapter three hundred and nine of the acts of nineteen
4 hundred and twenty-seven, is hereby further amended
5 by adding at the end thereof the following:—The
6 employee shall be allowed a reasonable sum for care
7 and nursing whether or not such services are per-
8 formed in a hospital or at his home by members of his
9 family,—so as to read as follows:—*Section 30.* During
10 the first two weeks after the injury, and, if the em-
11 ployee is not immediately incapacitated thereby from
12 earning full wages, then from the time of such inca-
13 pacity, and in unusual cases, or cases requiring spe-
14 cialized or surgical treatment, in the discretion of the
15 department, for a longer period, the insurer shall fur-

16 nish adequate and reasonable medical and hospital
17 services, and medicines if needed, together with the
18 expenses necessarily incidental to such services. The
19 employee may select a physician other than the one
20 provided by the insurer; and in case he shall be
21 treated by a physician of his own selection, or where,
22 in case of emergency or for other justifiable cause, a
23 physician other than the one provided by the insurer
24 is called in to treat the injured employee, the reason-
25 able cost of his services shall be paid by the insurer,
26 subject to the approval of the department. Such ap-
27 proval shall be granted only if the department finds
28 that the employee was so treated by such physician
29 or that there was such emergency or justifiable cause,
30 and in all cases that the services were adequate and
31 reasonable and the charges reasonable. In any case
32 where the department is of opinion that the fitting of
33 the employee with an artificial eye or limb, or other
34 mechanical appliance, will promote his restoration to
35 industry, it may order that he be provided with such
36 an artificial eye, limb or appliance, at the expense of
37 the insurer.

38 The employee shall be allowed a reasonable sum for
39 care and nursing whether or not such services are
40 performed in a hospital or at his home by members
41 of his family.

