

SENATE No. 286.

[To accompany the petition of May Alden Ward and others, officers of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs, for legislation relative to the commitment of girls to the custody of the State Board of Charity. Education.]

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Three.

AN ACT

Relative to the Instruction and Training of Habitual
Truants, Absentees and School Offenders.

*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 three of chapter forty-six
2 of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by in-
3 serting after "if a girl," in line six: — to the cus-
4 tody of the state board of charity or, — so that
5 it shall read as follows: —

6 *Section 3.* A child between seven and fourteen
7 years of age who wilfully and habitually absents
8 himself from school contrary to the provisions of

9 section one of chapter forty-four shall be deemed
10 to be an habitual truant, and, upon complaint by
11 a truant officer and conviction thereof, may, if a
12 boy, be committed to a county truant school for
13 not more than two years and, if a girl, to the cus-
14 tody of the state board of charity, or to the state
15 industrial school for girls unless such child is
16 placed on probation as provided in section seven
17 of this chapter.

1 SECTION 2. Section four of chapter forty-six
2 of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by insert-
3 ing after "if a girl," in line eight: — to the custody
4 of the state board of charity or, — so that it shall
5 read as follows: —

6 *Section 4.* A child between seven and sixteen
7 years of age who may be found wandering about
8 in the streets or public places of any city or town,
9 having no lawful occupation, habitually not attend-
10 ing school, and growing up in idleness and igno-
11 rance, shall be deemed to be an habitual absentee,
12 and, upon complaint by a truant officer or any
13 other person and conviction thereof, may, if a boy,
14 be committed to a county truant school for not
15 more than two years or to the Lyman school for
16 boys, and, if a girl, to the custody of the state
17 board of charity, or to the state industrial school
18 for girls, unless such child is placed on probation
19 as provided in section seven.

1 SECTION 3. Section five of chapter forty-six of
2 the Revised Laws is hereby amended by inserting

3 after "if a girl," in line eight: — to the state board
4 of charity or, — so that it shall read as follows: —
5 *Section 5.* A child under fourteen years of
6 age who persistently violates the reasonable regu-
7 lations of the school which he attends, or other-
8 wise persistently misbehaves therein, so as to
9 render himself a fit subject for exclusion there-
10 from, shall be deemed to be an habitual school
11 offender, and, upon complaint by a truant officer
12 and conviction thereof, may, if a boy, be com-
13 mitted to a county truant school for not more than
14 two years or to the Lyman school for boys, and,
15 if a girl, to the custody of the state board of
16 charity, or to the state industrial school for girls,
17 unless such child is placed on probation as pro-
18 vided in section seven.

1 SECTION 4. Section ten of chapter forty-six of
2 the Revised Laws is hereby amended by adding:
3 —If a girl who is committed to the custody of
4 the state board of charity, under sections three
5 four or five of this chapter, proves unmanageable
6 in a private family, upon complaint by the state
7 board of charity, she may be committed to the
8 state industrial school for girls,—so that it shall
9 read as follows:—

10 *Section 10.* An inmate of a county truant school
11 or of the parental school of the city of Boston
12 who persistently violates the reasonable regula-
13 tions thereof, or is guilty of indecent or immoral
14 conduct, or otherwise grossly misbehaves, so as
15 to render himself an unfit subject for retention

16 therein, may, upon complaint by the officer in
17 control of said school and conviction thereof, if
18 under fifteen years of age, be committed to the
19 Lyman school for boys; if over fifteen years of
20 age, to the Massachusetts reformatory. If a girl
21 who is committed to the custody of the state board
22 of charity under sections three, four or five of this
23 chapter proves unmanageable in a private family,
24 upon complaint by the state board of charity, she
25 may be committed to the state industrial school
26 for girls.