

# SENATE . . . . No. 274

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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SENATE, March 3, 1910.

The committee on Public Charitable Institutions, to whom was referred the petition (with accompanying bill, Senate, No. 212) of L. Vernon Briggs and others that persons suffering from certain mental disorders in the city of Boston shall be treated at the Psychopathic Hospital, report the accompanying bill.

For the committee,

JOHN H. PICKFORD.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ten.

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### AN ACT

Relative to Persons suffering from Certain Mental and Other Disorders or Diseases in the City of Boston.

*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. All persons suffering from the dis-  
2 orders hereinafter referred to, now under arrest  
3 or who may come under the care and protection  
4 of the police of the city of Boston and who, owing  
5 to lack of suitable buildings or wards, are at present  
6 placed in the city prison, the house of detention  
7 or the house of correction at Deer island, pending  
8 a medical examination and transference, shall be  
9 taken directly to the psychopathic hospital for  
10 examination when said hospital has been completed  
11 and is ready for the reception of patients, in the  
12 same manner as other persons afflicted with other  
13 diseases are taken to the Massachusetts general  
14 hospital. If after examination the physician in  
15 charge of the psychopathic hospital decides the case  
16 to be one of delirium tremens, or drunkenness he  
17 shall not be obliged to admit the patient to said

18 hospital, but otherwise said hospital shall admit  
19 and observe or care for all persons suffering from  
20 delirium, mental confusion or delusions and hal-  
21 lucinations until such persons can be transferred to  
22 the hospitals or institutions appropriate in each par-  
23 ticular case, unless the patient should recover be-  
24 fore such transfer is made.

1 SECTION 2. From and after the first day of May  
2 in the current year and until such time as a psycho-  
3 pathic hospital shall be completed and ready to re-  
4 ceive persons suffering from the disorders referred  
5 to in section one, the state board of insanity shall  
6 provide at the Boston state hospital suitable tem-  
7 porary quarters for receiving and giving medical  
8 care and treatment to all persons suffering from  
9 sudden delirium, mental disorders or kindred con-  
10 ditions, to which quarters shall be sent directly all  
11 such persons who are at present placed in the city  
12 prison, house of detention or the house of correc-  
13 tion at Deer island, pending medical examination  
14 and transference.

1 SECTION 3. On and after the first day of May in  
2 the current year no person suffering from mental  
3 confusion, mania, delirium, hallucinations or delu-  
4 sions shall hereafter be harbored or confined in any  
5 penal institution within the city of Boston for a  
6 period exceeding twelve hours.

