

HOUSE No. 714

Bill accompanying the petition of Roland D. Sawyer for an annual recess committee to investigate State institutions. Joint Rules. January 15.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fourteen.

AN ACT

To provide for an Annual Recess Committee to investigate State Institutions.

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. The general court shall at some time
2 during the last two weeks in the session in each year
3 elect a committee of five persons to be known as the
4 recess committee on state institutions. The members
5 of the Senate shall elect two members of the said com-
6 mittee and the members of the house of representatives
7 shall elect three members, and the manner of their
8 election shall be determined by the senate and the
9 house of representatives respectively.

1 SECTION 2. The recess committee to investigate state
2 institutions shall, before the meeting of the next general

3 court, make a personal investigation of all state in-
4 stitutions for the confinement or care of prisoners, in-
5 sane and feeble-minded persons, sick persons, children,
6 paupers and others. It shall be the duty of the com-
7 mittee to investigate each institution thoroughly and
8 to hear the complaints, if there are any, of the inmates
9 of the institutions. The committee shall investigate
10 the management and administration of each institution
11 and shall endeavor to determine whether it is efficiently,
12 humanely and economically administered. The com-
13 mittee shall have power to give public hearings, to
14 administer oaths, to require the attendance of witnesses
15 and the production of documents and it may expend for
16 traveling and other necessary expenses a sum not ex-
17 ceeding two thousand dollars. An additional sum
18 for this purpose may be expended with the approval
19 of the governor and council.

1 SECTION 3. The members of the said committee shall
2 be allowed five dollars a day each for each day during
3 which they are busy in the work of the committee.

1 SECTION 4. The said committee shall report the
2 results of its investigation to the general court not
3 later than the second Wednesday in January of each
4 year, and if the committee deems any legislation to
5 be necessary in respect to the said state institutions
6 it shall accompany its report with drafts of such legisla-
7 tion.