

HOUSE No. 45

Bill accompanying the petition of Edward F. Harrington relative to the treatment by their own physicians in cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Joint Judiciary. January 5.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen.

AN ACT

Relative to the Treatment of Injured Employees by Their Own Physicians in Cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act

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 five of Part II of chapter seven
2 hundred and fifty-one of the acts of the year nineteen
3 hundred and eleven, as amended by section one of chap-
4 ter seven hundred and eight of the acts of the year nine-
5 teen hundred and fourteen, is hereby amended by strik-
6 ing out the last sentence and inserting in place thereof
7 the following:—It shall be considered justifiable cause
8 for calling in a physician other than the one provided
9 by the association if the regular family physician em-
10 ployed by the injured employee is called in, but approval
11 of the cost of the services of a physician other than the

12 one provided by the association shall be granted only
13 if the board finds that the charge for the services is
14 reasonable,—so as to read as follows:—*Section 5.*
15 During the first two weeks after the injury, and, if the
16 employee is not immediately incapacitated thereby from
17 earning full wages, then from the time of such incapacity,
18 and in unusual cases, in the discretion of the board, for
19 a longer period, the association shall furnish reasonable
20 medical and hospital services, and medicines, when they
21 are needed. Where, in a case of emergency or for other
22 justifiable cause, a physician other than the one provided
23 by the association is called in to treat the injured em-
24 ployee, the reasonable cost of his services shall be paid
25 by the association, subject to the approval of the in-
26 dustrial accident board. It shall be considered justifi-
27 able cause for calling in a physician other than the one
28 provided by the association if the regular family phy-
29 sician employed by the injured employee is called in,
30 but approval of the cost of the services of a physician
31 other than the one provided by the association shall be
32 granted only if the board finds that the charge for the
33 services is reasonable.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

