

HOUSE No. 286

Bill accompanying the recommendations of the State Board of Charity (House, No. 282). Public Institutions. January 8.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventeen.

AN ACT

Relative to Reimbursement by the Commonwealth to Cities and Towns for Certain Expenses incurred for Sick Persons.

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 fifteen of chapter eighty-five of
2 the Revised Laws, as amended by chapter five hundred
3 and fifty-five of the acts of the year nineteen hundred
4 and eight, and as further amended by chapter seven hun-
5 dred and ninety-seven of the acts of the year nineteen
6 hundred and thirteen, is hereby further amended by
7 striking out the word "hospital", in the sixth line, and
8 inserting in place thereof the word:— infirmary,— and
9 by inserting after the word "commonwealth", in the said
10 sixth line, the words:— if the state board of charity,
11 after investigation, deems it expedient as an economy in

12 expenditure, and in the interest of the patient's health,
13 it may authorize reimbursement for aid rendered after
14 the patient has become able to be removed to the said
15 state infirmary and in their discretion, until such patient
16 is able to be discharged, — and by striking out the word
17 "hospital", in the eighth line, and inserting in its stead
18 the word:— infirmary, — and by striking out the word
19 "seven", in the nineteenth line, and inserting in place
20 thereof the word:— ten, — and by inserting after the
21 word "dollars", in the said nineteenth line, the words:—
22 and fifty cents, — and by adding at the end thereof the
23 words:— and no charges of whatever nature in excess of
24 the said ten dollars and fifty cents a week shall be al-
25 lowed, — so as to read as follows:— *Section 15.* The
26 reasonable expense which is incurred by a city or town
27 under the provisions of the preceding section within five
28 days next before notice has been given as therein re-
29 quired and also after the giving of such notice and until
30 said sick person is able to be removed to the state in-
31 firmary shall be reimbursed by the commonwealth. If
32 the state board of charity, after investigation, deems it
33 expedient as an economy in expenditure, and in the
34 interest of the patient's health, it may authorize reim-
35 bursement for aid rendered after the patient has become
36 able to be removed to the said state infirmary and in
37 their discretion, until such patient is able to be dis-
38 charged. If the state board of charity considers it ex-
39 pedient to order the removal to the state infirmary of a
40 person whose physical condition is such as to require
41 attendance, then the reasonable expense incurred for
42 such attendance, as directed by the state board of char-
43 ity, shall also be reimbursed by the commonwealth.
44 The bills for such support shall not be allowed unless
45 they are indorsed with the declaration that, after full

46 investigation, no kindred able to pay the amount charged
47 have been found, and that the amount has actually been
48 paid from the city or town treasury, nor unless they are
49 approved by the state board of charity or by a person
50 designated by it; and not more than ten dollars and
51 fifty cents a week shall be allowed for the support of
52 a person in a city or town hospital; and no charges of
53 whatever nature in excess of the said ten dollars and
54 fifty cents a week shall be allowed.

1 SECTION 2. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent here-
2 with are hereby repealed.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

