

SENATE No. 943

By Mr. Cohen, a petition of Beryl W. Cohen for legislation to limit the liability of parents for the support of mentally retarded children in state hospitals. Social Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-Nine.

AN ACT LIMITING THE LIABILITY OF PARENTS FOR THE SUPPORT OF
MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN STATE HOSPITALS.

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 96 of Chapter 123 of the General Laws, as most re-
2 cently amended by section 8A of Chapter 613 of the Acts of
3 1958, is hereby further amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing paragraphs: —

5 No parent of a mentally retarded child who has been resi-
6 dent in a state institution for longer than three years shall be
7 liable for such support for any period subsequent to the said
8 child's third year of residence in a state institution.

9 No charge for support or other debt that has accrued on be-
10 half of a mentally retarded child can be recovered which is past
11 due for more than five years.

SENATE

The Constitution of the Senate

1. The Senate shall consist of not more than thirty members, who shall be chosen by the electors in each State in the manner provided in the Constitution of the State in which they may respectively serve, and in each State the electors in the Senate shall have the same qualifications as the electors in the House of Representatives.

2. The electors in each State shall have the power to elect as Senators either the persons who are qualified to hold the office of Senators, or persons who are not so qualified, but who are qualified to hold the office of Representatives in Congress.

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