

HOUSE No. 129

Accompanying the sixth recommendation of the Department of Mental Health (House, No. 122). Social Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Four.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO PAYMENT FOR CARE OF PATIENTS AT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH 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 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by striking out section 63, as amended by section 2 of
3 chapter 517 of the acts of 1963, and inserting in place thereof
4 the following section:

5 *Section 63.* The department shall maintain the Lemuel
6 Shattuck hospital, the Rutland hospital, the Lakeville hospital,
7 the Pondville hospital, and the Western Massachusetts hospital.
8 The commissioner shall have the general supervision and control
9 over such hospitals and shall see that the affairs of such hospitals
10 are conducted according to law, and to such rules and regulations
11 as he and the public health council, acting together as the
12 department, may from time to time make for the operation and
13 management of such hospitals. Subject to the provisions of
14 sections twenty-five B to twenty-five G, the department may
15 provide outpatient services at any of such hospitals.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 111 is hereby further amended by
2 striking out section 69E, as amended by section 7 of said chapter
3 517, and inserting in place thereof the following section:

4 *Section 69E.* The department may admit persons to, and
5 treat persons on an ambulatory basis at, the Lemuel Shattuck

6 hospital, the Rutland hospital, the Lakeville hospital, the
7 Pondville hospital, and the Western Massachusetts hospital in
8 accordance with its rules and regulations for the operation and
9 management of such hospitals; provided, that, where a vacancy
10 exists at any such hospital, preference shall be given to any
11 resident of the Commonwealth over any nonresident if such
12 resident requires the type of treatment or care offered at such
13 hospital.

1 SECTION 3. Section 1 of chapter 176A of the General
2 Laws, as most recently amended by chapter 703 of the acts of
3 1972, is hereby amended by striking out the fourth paragraph
4 and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:

5 Nothing in this section shall prevent any such corporation,
6 with the approval of said commissioner, from entering into a
7 contract with the department of public health, whereby, in
8 consideration of a contract fee, said department shall provide such
9 treatment and care at a hospital maintained by it or would be
10 provided in a participating hospital under contract with sub-
11 scribers, subject to such restrictions as to the nature of disease
12 and length of stay as may be specified from time to time in any
13 such contract with said department.