

AN ACT INVALIDATING SETTLEMENTS OR RELEASES OBTAINED FROM INJURED PERSONS CONFINED IN HOSPITALS OR SANITARIUMS AND MAKING INADMISSIBLE IN EVIDENCE SIGNED STATEMENTS OF SUCH PERSONS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. Chap.166

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 271 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 43 the following section: — *Section 44.* Except as provided below, no settlement or general release or statement in writing signed by any person confined in a hospital or sanitarium as a patient with reference to any personal injuries for which said person is confined in said hospital or sanitarium shall be admissible in evidence, used or referred to in any manner at the trial of any action to recover damages for personal injuries or consequential damages, so called, resulting therefrom, which statement, settlement or general release was obtained within fifteen days after the injuries were sustained and such settlement or release shall be null and void unless at least five days prior to the obtaining or procuring of such general release or statement such injured party had signified in writing his willingness that such general release or statement be given. This section shall not apply to statements or releases obtained by police officers or inspectors of motor vehicles in the performance of their duty, members of the family of such person or by or on behalf of his attorney. The provisions of this section shall not apply to chapter one hundred and fifty-two.

G. L. (Ter. Ed.), 271, new § 44, added.

Releases from persons confined in certain institutions, etc., inadmissible in evidence.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on October first in the current year, but shall not apply to statements, releases or settlements obtained prior to that date.

Effective date.

*Approved March 6, 1950.*

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE EXPENDITURE OF MONEY BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING THE RECREATIONAL ADVANTAGES OF SAID COUNTY. Chap.167

*Be it enacted, etc., as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 30 of the acts of 1938 is hereby amended by striking out section 1 and inserting in place thereof the following section: — *Section 1.* The county commissioners of Berkshire county may, for the purpose of advertising the recreational advantages of said county, expend such sums, not exceeding ten thousand dollars in any one year, as may be appropriated therefor. Said commissioners shall expend such sums only for advertising in newspapers, magazines and the like, or for booklets, posters or other forms of advertising. In carrying out the provisions of this act, the county commissioners may designate an agent or