

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 3798

By Mr. Flynn of Hanover, petition of William J. Flynn, Jr., relative to increasing the quality of medical care for patients in mental institutions. Human Services and Elderly Affairs.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

### AN ACT INCREASING THE QUALITY OF MEDICAL CARE FOR PATIENTS IN MENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

*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 123, section 4 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby amended by deleting (1) in the first paragraph and adding  
3 in its place the following: —

4 (1) a thorough and competent physical clinical examination by  
5 a licensed general practitioner and not a psychiatrist, to ensure  
6 that the patient's mental condition is not caused by any physical  
7 illness, injury or defect.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 123, section 4 of the General Laws is  
2 hereby further amended by deleting in the first paragraph, line  
3 18, the words "twelve month period", and inserting in its place  
4 the words "three month period".

1 SECTION 3. All mental institutions shall have adequate  
2 medical, non-psychiatric staff and doctors available at all times  
3 to ensure that the medical needs of the patients hospitalized are  
4 properly attended. Such institutions shall have a fully equipped  
5 clinic to serve the needs of the patients for physical examinations,  
6 testing for organic disorders, and treatment of physical disorders.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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SECTION 1. Chapter 111, Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Alabama is amended to read as follows:

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SECTION 2. Chapter 111, Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Alabama is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 3. All state institutions shall have separate boards of trustees, and the board of trustees of each institution shall have a full and complete authority to manage the affairs of the institution...