

By Mr. Hammond, a petition of George D. Hammond for legislation to authorize counties, cities and towns to establish or maintain institutions for certain mental patients and epileptics, and to have the care, control and treatment of such persons. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT AUTHORIZING COUNTIES, CITIES AND TOWNS TO ESTABLISH OR MAINTAIN INSTITUTIONS FOR CERTAIN MENTAL PATIENTS AND EPILEPTICS, AND TO HAVE THE CARE, CONTROL AND TREATMENT OF SUCH 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 Chapter 123 of the General Laws is hereby amended by
 2 striking out section 2, as amended by section 7 of chapter 715
 3 of the acts of 1956, and inserting in place thereof the following
 4 section: —

5 *Section 2.* Any county, city or town may establish or main-
 6 tain an institution for the care, control and treatment of men-
 7 tally ill, epileptic or mentally deficient persons. A county, city
 8 or town may contribute to any infirmary, hospital, institution
 9 or charitable undertaking which is publicly owned and under
 10 the exclusive control, order and superintendence of public
 11 officers or public agents authorized by the commonwealth or
 12 the federal government, for the board, care or treatment of
 13 mentally ill epileptic or mentally deficient persons. The com-
 14 monwealth shall have the care, control and treatment of all
 15 other mentally ill, epileptic and mentally deficient persons, and
 16 of alcoholics and drug addicts, the care of whom is vested in it
 17 by law.

