

HOUSE . . . . No. 1113.

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 23, 1898.

The committee on Public Charitable Institutions, to whom was referred the petition (with accompanying bill, House, No. 112) of members of the Massachusetts Association of Relief Officers, for an amendment of the pauper laws of the Commonwealth, report the accompanying bill.

For the Committee,

EBEN C. WATERMAN.

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-eight.

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### AN ACT

Relative to the Pauper Laws of the Commonwealth.

*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 eighty-three, section one, clause  
2 fifth of the Public Statutes is hereby amended in the  
3 second line thereof after the word "and" by adding the  
4 words "within that time," so that the clause as amended  
5 shall read: "Fifth. Any person of the age of twenty-  
6 one years, who resides in any place within this state for  
7 five years together, and within that time pays all state,  
8 county, city or town taxes, duly assessed on his poll or  
9 estate, for any three years within that time, shall thereby  
10 gain a settlement in such place."

1 SECTION 2. Section six of said chapter eighty-three is  
2 hereby repealed, and the following substituted therefor,  
3 so as to read as follows:—

4 *Section 6.* All settlements not fully acquired, subse-  
5 quent to the first day of May in the year eighteen hun-  
6 dred and sixty, are hereby defeated and lost except where

7 the existence of such settlement prevented a subsequent  
8 acquisition of settlement in the same place: *provided*,  
9 that whenever a settlement acquired by marriage has  
10 been thus defeated, the former settlement of the wife, if  
11 not defeated by the same provision, shall be thereby  
12 revived.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter eighty-three is hereby fur-  
2 ther amended by adding a new section to be numbered  
3 section seven, and to read as follows: —

4 *Section 7.* All persons absent from the Common-  
5 wealth of Massachusetts for ten years in succession shall  
6 lose their settlement, unless they select a residence in  
7 some city or town in this state and pay within that time  
8 all state, county, city or town taxes duly assessed on  
9 their polls or estates.

1 SECTION 4. Chapter eighty-four, section six of said  
2 statutes is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof  
3 the words “and hereafter the same legal obligation to  
4 support her pauper children shall rest upon the mother  
5 as now by law rests upon the father,” so as to read as  
6 follows: —

7 *Section 6.* The kindred of such poor persons, in the  
8 line or degree of father or grandfather, mother or grand-  
9 mother, children or grandchildren by consanguinity,  
10 living in this state and of sufficient ability, shall be bound  
11 to support such paupers, in proportion to their respec-  
12 tive ability, and hereafter the same legal obligation to  
13 support her pauper children shall rest upon the mother  
14 as now, by law, rests upon the father.

1 SECTION 5. Section seven of said chapter eighty-four  
2 is hereby amended by striking out in the tenth line the

3 words "six months" and inserting in place thereof the  
4 words "two years," so as to read as follows:—

5 *Section 7.* Any justice of the superior court sitting  
6 in equity in the county where any one of such kindred  
7 to be charged resides, upon complaint of any city, town,  
8 or kindred who has been at expense for the relief and  
9 support of such pauper, may on due hearing assess and  
10 proportion thereto such sum as it shall deem reasonable  
11 for or towards the support of the pauper to the time of  
12 such assessment; and may enforce payment thereof by  
13 execution in common form: *provided*, that such assess-  
14 ment shall not extend to any expense for relief afforded  
15 more than two years previous to the filing of the com-  
16 plaint.

1 SECTION 6. Section eighteen of said chapter eighty-  
2 four is hereby repealed and the following section substi-  
3 tuted therefore, so as to read as follows:—

4 *Section 18.* A city or town may furnish aid to poor  
5 persons found therein, having no lawful settlement within  
6 the state, if the overseers of the poor deem it for the  
7 public interest; but, except in case of sickness not for  
8 a greater amount than two dollars a week for each family  
9 during the months of May to September inclusive, or  
10 three dollars a week for the months of October to April  
11 inclusive, and the overseers shall in every such case give  
12 immediate notice by mail to the State Board of Lunacy  
13 and Charity, which board shall examine the case and  
14 should they direct discontinuance shall remove such per-  
15 sons to the state almshouse or to any state or place  
16 where they belong when the necessities of such persons  
17 or the public interest require such removal and the super-  
18 intendent of said almshouse shall receive the persons so  
19 removed thereto the same as though sent in accordance  
20 with chapter eighty-four of the acts of eighteen hundred

21 and ninety-one and a detailed statement of expenses so  
22 incurred shall be rendered, and after approval by the  
23 state board, such expenses shall be paid from the state  
24 treasury.

1 SECTION 7. Chapter one hundred and sixteen, sec-  
2 tion forty-three of said statutes is hereby amended by  
3 adding at the end thereof the words “and the treasurers  
4 of benefit associations, insurance companies and safety  
5 deposit companies, shall in like manner, and subject to the  
6 same conditions, give information to the overseers of the  
7 poor and the State Board of Lunacy and Charity,” so as  
8 to read as follows : —

9 *Section 43.* The treasurer of every such corporation  
10 shall, upon a written request signed by an overseer of  
11 the poor of a city or town, or an officer of the State Board  
12 of Lunacy and Charity, inform him of the amount, if any,  
13 deposited in the corporation to the credit of any person  
14 named in such request, who is a charge upon the Com-  
15 monwealth or upon a city or town therein as a pauper ;  
16 and a treasurer who unreasonably refuses to give such in-  
17 formation, or wilfully renders false information, shall for-  
18 feit fifty dollars for every such offence to the use of the  
19 city or town upon which such pauper is a charge, or to the  
20 Commonwealth, if the pauper is a charge upon the Com-  
21 monwealth, and the treasurers of benefit associations,  
22 insurance companies and safety deposit companies shall  
23 in like manner and subject to the same conditions, give  
24 information to the overseers of the poor and State Board  
25 of Lunacy and Charity.

1 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect upon the first  
2 day of July next.





