

SENATE . . . No. 243.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SENATE, May 18, 1887.

The Committee on Public Charitable Institutions, to whom was referred the eighth annual report of the Board of Lunacy and Charity, report, in part, the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

L. T. JEFTS.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven.

AN ACT

Concerning Commitments and Transfers of the
Insane.

*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. On and after the first day of July,
2 in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-seven,
3 the four state lunatic hospitals at Danvers,
4 Worcester, Taunton and Northampton shall
5 receive new commitments only from the following
6 districts, except as hereinafter provided: The
7 Danvers Hospital from a district including the
8 county of Essex and the towns of Dracut,
9 Chelmsford, Tewksbury, Billerica, Bedford, Bur-
10 lington, Wilmington, Woburn, Winchester,
11 Arlington, Medford, Everett, Melrose, Stone-
12 ham, Reading, North Reading and Wakefield,
13 and the cities of Lowell, Malden and Somerville,

14 in the county of Middlesex; the Worcester Hos-
15 pital from a district including all the rest of
16 Middlesex county, the whole county of Worcester
17 and the towns of Brookline, Needham, Dover,
18 Medway, Franklin and Bellingham, in the county
19 of Norfolk; the Northampton Hospital from the
20 counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and
21 Hampshire; and the Taunton Hospital from the
22 counties of Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Nan-
23 tucket, Plymouth and so much of Norfolk county
24 as is not included in the Worcester district: *pro-*
25 *vided, however,* that the cities of Boston and
26 Chelsea and the rest of Suffolk county may send
27 insane persons alternately and in equal numbers
28 to the state lunatic hospitals at Danvers, Taunton
29 and Worcester, the Westborough Insane Hospital
30 and the Boston Lunatic Hospital at South Boston;
31 omitting from the enumeration such insane per-
32 sons as, upon request of their friends, shall be
33 sent to the Westborough Insane Hospital, the
34 McLean Asylum or any duly authorized private
35 asylum; *and provided, further,* that persons
36 maintained by their own property or that of their
37 friends may be sent, at the discretion of the
38 committing magistrate, to any hospital or asylum
39 in the Commonwealth.

1 SECT. 2. The state board of lunacy and
2 charity shall have power to enforce the provisions
3 of this act by notifications sent to the committing
4 magistrates, or otherwise; and may, for sufficient
5 reasons, exempt cities, towns or individuals from

6 its operation, when hardship would, in the opinion
7 of said board, result therefrom; and for this pur-
8 pose may transfer patients from any of the hos-
9 pitals above named to other hospitals or asylums,
10 or] to private dwellings within the Common-
11 wealth.

1 SECT. 3. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.