

# HOUSE....No. 291.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 30, 1855.

The Joint Standing Committee on Public Charitable Institutions, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Address as relates to the State Almshouses in the Commonwealth, and who were instructed to visit the same, ask leave to

### REPORT:

That on visiting said institutions the Committee were impressed with the necessity of separating the youth from promiscuous intercourse with the insane, idiotic, immoral, and diseased persons who are necessarily congregated there, and affording them better facilities for moral and intellectual instruction and training than can possibly be provided under the present arrangement of said institutions. To effect this object, they submit and recommend the passage of the accompanying Bill.

For the Committee,

JOHN E. WOOD.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-  
Five.

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**AN ACT**

Providing for the Classification of State Paupers.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—*

1    SECT. 1. The State almshouse situated in the  
2 town of Monson shall be, and is hereby, set apart for  
3 the purpose of a State pauper school; and all the  
4 children in the other State almshouses, and all who  
5 shall be hereafter entitled to be received into said in-  
6 stitutions under the provisions of an act entitled An  
7 Act in relation to Paupers having no settlement in  
8 the Commonwealth, passed in 1852, chapter 275,  
9 between five and sixteen years of age, shall be re-  
10 moved to, and received into, said State pauper school  
11 at Monson: *provided, however,* that the superintend-

12 ents and inspectors of the respective State almshouses  
13 shall not so remove any children as above whom  
14 they judge to be *non compos mentis*, but they shall,  
15 at their discretion, recommend orphan children who  
16 may be under five years of age, and in cases of  
17 unusual deprivation of privilege they may recom-  
18 mend children upwards of sixteen years of age, to be  
19 received, to enjoy the advantages of said pauper  
20 school; they shall likewise at their discretion retain  
21 any children of the above-described ages a reasonable  
22 length of time, to give their parents or other rela-  
23 tives an opportunity to make provision for their  
24 maintenance and education; but they shall not be so  
25 detained for a longer period than two months, nor  
26 shall this provision apply to any one who is received  
27 the second time.

1     SECT. 2. The superintendent and officers of said  
2 institution shall be appointed as heretofore, only  
3 especial regard shall be had to their moral and intel-  
4 lectual fitness to have the training and education of  
5 youth; they shall be entitled to the compensation and  
6 perquisites, and possess all the powers, heretofore en-  
7 joyed by the officers of the State almshouses, and  
8 they shall be subject to all the duties heretofore im-  
9 posed: *provided*, that such privileges, powers and  
10 duties do not conflict with any of the provisions of  
11 this act.

12     A limited number of able-bodied females may be  
13 selected from the adult inmates of the other institutions  
14 to do the work in said school: *provided, always*, that  
15 care shall be taken to select those who are morally  
16 and intellectually most suitable to be associated with

17 children, and that, when it can be done consistently,  
18 the mothers of pupils shall be selected.

1     SECT. 3. The counties which have heretofore sent  
2 State paupers to Monson shall hereafter be divided  
3 as follows, viz.: The counties of Worcester, Norfolk  
4 and Hampden shall send all State paupers that are  
5 not above designated to the State pauper school to  
6 the State almshouse at Bridgewater, and the counties  
7 of Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire shall send all  
8 paupers not designated to said State pauper school to  
9 the State almshouse at Tewksbury. And it shall be  
10 the duty of the inspectors and superintendents of the  
11 respective State almshouses to see the provisions of  
12 this act carried into effect on before the twenty-ninth  
13 day of June, A. D. 1855.