

shall be construed to prevent the education of children in vocal and instrumental music or dancing, or their employment as musicians in any church, chapel or school, or school exhibition, or to prevent their taking part in any festival, concert or musical exhibition on the special written permission of the mayor and aldermen of a city or of the selectmen of a town.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 29, 1898.

Chap. 395 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ILLUMINATING THE DOME AND LANTERN OF THE STATE HOUSE, AND FOR IMPROVEMENTS ON THE STATE HOUSE GROUNDS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

Committee to consider plans for illuminating dome of state house, etc.

SECTION 1. His Excellency Roger Wolcott, governor of the Commonwealth, George E. Smith, president of the senate, and John L. Bates, speaker of the house of representatives, shall, as a committee serving without pay, consider and decide upon plans for placing electric lights about the dome and lantern of the state house, for supplying the fountains with piping, pump and tank and with electrical appliances for lighting, and for trenching the grounds. Any vacancies occurring in said committee shall be filled by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council.

Vacancies.

May employ an expert to make drawings, etc.

SECTION 2. For the purposes stated in section one of this act said committee is hereby authorized and directed to employ an expert to make and submit for its approval drawings, specifications and designs. Said expert shall superintend the execution of the work in accordance with such drawings, specifications, designs and plans as shall be approved by the committee, and in accordance with such changes therein as may be thereafter approved in writing by said committee. The drawings, specifications, designs and plans approved by said committee, and any changes from time to time made therein with the written approval of the committee, shall be delivered to the state house commissioners.

Drawings, etc., to be delivered to state house commissioners.

State house commissioners to make contracts, employ labor, etc.

SECTION 3. The state house commissioners are hereby authorized and directed, upon receipt of said drawings, specifications, designs and plans, to proceed to carry out the same, and to make in behalf of the Commonwealth all contracts and expenditures, and to employ all labor

which shall be necessary for that purpose, but the expense incurred by said commissioners under the provisions of this act, including the compensation of the expert employed under the provisions of section two, which shall be paid by them, shall not exceed ten thousand five hundred dollars, which sum shall be taken from the unexpended balance of the loan for remodelling the Bulfinch state house.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved May 2, 1898.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE SUPPORT OF THE POOR IN TOWNS.

Chap.396

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

SECTION 1. In towns where paupers are provided for in families the overseers of the poor shall investigate each place where the town paupers are to be so provided for, and shall endeavor by contract to secure their proper care and maintenance. A full and complete record of each case shall be kept, showing the terms of the contract and what services, if any, are to be rendered by the paupers. A majority of the overseers of the poor shall certify upon the records that such investigation has been made in each case, and that they are satisfied that the paupers will be properly cared for. The overseers of the poor, either by one of their own number or by a duly appointed agent, shall, at least once in every six months, visit each place where the town paupers are supported, and a record of each visit and of the condition of the paupers visited shall be kept.

Overseers of poor in certain towns to investigate places where town paupers are to be supported, etc.

SECTION 2. The state board of lunacy and charity shall have authority to visit and inspect all places where town paupers are supported in families.

State board of lunacy and charity to have certain authority.

SECTION 3. Chapter three hundred and seventy-four of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, and all other acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed. *Approved May 5, 1898.*

Repeal.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO ARREST ON MESNE PROCESS.

Chap.397

Be it enacted, etc., as follows :

Any person arrested on mesne process in any civil suit may apply in writing in any county to a justice of the court to which such process is returnable for a reduction of the amount of the ad damnum of the writ, or for his

Persons arrested on mesne process may apply for reduction of ad damnum, etc.