

HOUSE No. 1828

By Mr. Sirois of Lawrence (by request), petition of Henry M. Landesman for legislation to require certificates of negative blood examination of both parties with filing of marriage intentions. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Nine.

AN ACT REQUIRING CERTIFICATES OF NEGATIVE BLOOD EXAMINATION OF BOTH PARTIES WITH FILING OF MARRIAGE INTENTION.

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 two hundred and seven of the General
2 Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section
3 thirty-seven, as appearing in the Tercentenary Edi-
4 tion, the following new sections: —
5 *Section 37A.* The clerk or registrar shall not issue
6 a marriage license unless both parties shall have
7 presented a certificate signed by a regular practi-
8 tioner of medicine, practicing in the commonwealth,
9 showing that a blood examination of both parties
10 has been made within ten days, separately and in-
11 dividually, in which a serological complement fixation
12 or flocculation test was made at a regularly approved
13 laboratory registered under the laws of the common-
14 wealth and that both tests have been negative for

15 syphilis, or unless any such party who fails to present
16 said certificate presents a certificate of a practicing
17 physician that such party has been Wassermann tested
18 during a period of three years and received not less
19 than forty arsphenamine injections and not less than
20 fifty heavy metal injections.

21 *Section 37B.* A test for gonorrhoea shall be re-
22 quested of both applicants for marriage license, but
23 this examination shall be voluntary only on the part
24 of the female and may be waived by her if she refuses
25 such an examination.

26 *Section 37C.* Said certificate shall be considered
27 confidential and impounded in a separate file desig-
28 nated for such purpose.

29 *Section 37D.* When so ordered in writing by the
30 judge of probate court of the district in which the
31 marriage is to take place, who in his opinion believes
32 that public policy or the physical condition of either
33 one of the parties requires that the intended mar-
34 riage be celebrated without delay, the requirements
35 of sections thirty-seven A and thirty-seven B shall
36 be waived on the above order of the judge of the
37 probate court. Such order must be placed on file
38 and recorded, and the registrar shall issue the mar-
39 riage license forthwith, but at the earliest opportu-
40 nity or within ten days following such marriage, blood
41 examination certificates of each party to the marriage,
42 made by a regular practitioner of medicine in the
43 commonwealth must be filed to complete the marriage
44 law requirements.

45 *Section 37E.* Any party to a marriage who wil-
46 fully or deliberately tries to evade the requirements
47 of sections thirty-seven A to thirty-seven D by having
48 some one else take blood examinations for him or

49 her and presents the results as his or her own shall be
50 punished by a fine of one hundred dollars or by im-
51 prisonment not to exceed ninety days.

52 *Section 37F.* Any physician who shall wilfully
53 or deliberately make any false statement in any cer-
54 tificate provided for in section thirty-seven A and
55 thirty-seven B shall be punished by a fine of one
56 hundred dollars.

57 *Section 37G.* Any registrar or town clerk who
58 fails to carry out the duties imposed upon him under
59 sections thirty-seven A, thirty-seven C and thirty-
60 seven D shall be punished by a fine of one hundred
61 dollars for each case.

62 *Section 37H.* That a commission of three physi-
63 cians, specialists in syphilis and venereal diseases be
64 appointed to carry out the duties and regulations
65 of this pre-marriage law. The decision of this com-
66 mission on a disputed case shall be final.

67 (1) This commission shall be appointed by the
68 governor of the commonwealth for terms of one, two
69 and three years respectively at a salary of five hun-
70 dred dollars and transportation fares per annum.
71 One member to be designated as the chairman and
72 another as secretary. This commission shall meet
73 once weekly and as often as is necessary to act on
74 individual cases.

75 (2) Vacancies to be filled as they occur each year
76 by the governor of the commonwealth.

77 The main purpose for the enactment of this law is
78 to discover syphilis at the earliest possible moment,
79 to institute immediate treatment and not to prevent
80 marriages.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general description of the country and its resources. It is followed by a detailed account of the various industries and occupations of the people. The third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various towns and villages of the country. The fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various churches and religious institutions of the country. The fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various schools and educational institutions of the country. The sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various hospitals and medical institutions of the country. The seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public buildings and institutions of the country. The eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public works and improvements of the country. The ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public charities and institutions of the country. The tenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public offices and institutions of the country. The eleventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public libraries and institutions of the country. The twelfth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public parks and institutions of the country. The thirteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public gardens and institutions of the country. The fourteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public squares and institutions of the country. The fifteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public streets and institutions of the country. The sixteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public bridges and institutions of the country. The seventeenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public roads and institutions of the country. The eighteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public canals and institutions of the country. The nineteenth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public harbors and institutions of the country. The twentieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public wharves and institutions of the country. The twenty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public docks and institutions of the country. The twenty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public piers and institutions of the country. The twenty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public quays and institutions of the country. The twenty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public jetties and institutions of the country. The twenty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public breakwaters and institutions of the country. The twenty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public lighthouses and institutions of the country. The twenty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public beacons and institutions of the country. The twenty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public buoys and institutions of the country. The twenty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public markers and institutions of the country. The thirtieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public signs and institutions of the country. The thirty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The thirty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public advertisements and institutions of the country. The thirty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The thirty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The thirty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The thirty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The thirty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The thirty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The thirty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The fortieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-first part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-second part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-third part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-fourth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-fifth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-sixth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-seventh part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-eighth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The forty-ninth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country. The fiftieth part of the report is devoted to a description of the various public notices and institutions of the country.