

Accompanying the second recommendation of the Commissioner of Correction (House, No. 41). Public Safety. Dec. 2, 1926.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-Seven.

An Act extending the Scope of the Law providing for the Identification of Criminals.

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 one hundred and twenty-
2 seven of the General Laws is hereby amended by
3 striking out section twenty-three and inserting in
4 place thereof the following:—
5 *Section 23.* The keeper of a jail or the officer in
6 charge of any penal institution in which a person
7 is confined in default of bail on a charge of felony or
8 to which he is committed under a sentence of im-
9 prisonment shall, unless the court otherwise orders,
10 cause to be taken a photograph and the name, age,
11 height, weight and a general description of such
12 person, with copies of his finger prints in accord-
13 ance with the finger print system of identification.
14 Such records shall be taken by persons in the serv-
15 ice of the commonwealth or any county appointed
16 by the commissioner for that purpose. The court
17 may order to be taken the photograph, name, age,
18 height, weight and a general description in accord-
19 ance with the so called Bertillon system, and the

20 finger prints of a person convicted of crime but who
21 is not committed to a penal institution. All such
22 photographs and identifying matter shall be trans-
23 mitted forthwith to the commissioner.

1 SECTION 2. Section twenty-six of chapter one
2 hundred and twenty-seven of the General Laws is
3 hereby amended by striking out in the third line
4 thereof the words “for larceny or any felony”,—
5 so as to read as follows:— *Section 26.* The com-
6 missioner shall require the officers in charge of
7 state and county prisons to make descriptions of all
8 prisoners committed to their custody in accordance
9 with the finger print system of identification. The
10 descriptions and finger prints so made shall be sent
11 to the commissioner for filing and comparison. All
12 finger print impressions made by the police of a
13 town, or duplicates thereof, shall be sent to the
14 commissioner to be recorded and kept as provided
15 in section twenty-four.

