
By Messrs. Canavan of Revere and Rowan of Revere, petition of Harold W. Canavan and William H. J. Rowan relative to the disposition of "patients' valuables" at the Tewksbury State Hospital and Infirmary. Public Welfare.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE DISPOSITION OF "PATIENTS' VALUABLES", SO CALLED, AT THE TEWKSBURY STATE HOSPITAL AND INFIRMARY.

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 122 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by striking out section 2D and inserting in place thereof
3 the following section:—
4 *Section 2D.* Property known as "patients' valuables",
5 belonging to, or deposited for the benefit of, former pa-
6 tients of said institution, which shall have remained un-
7 claimed for more than one year, shall be disposed of as
8 hereinafter provided. The superintendent of said insti-
9 tution, when requested by the trustees to do so, shall
10 list the articles and forward said list to the department
11 of public welfare. Said department shall ascertain
12 whether the property has any sale value, and if so, shall
13 solicit from at least three reputable dealers in like prop-
14 erty offers for the purchase thereof, and shall sell the same
15 to the dealer offering the highest price. The proceeds
16 of such sale shall be added to the funds of said institu-
17 tion known as "patients' funds" and shall be disposed
18 of as provided in section two C. Said department may
19 dispose of such said property as, in its opinion, has no

20 sale value, or any of said property for which no offer,
21 solicited as aforesaid, has been received, in such manner
22 as it may deem proper. A complete record of each trans-
23 action hereunder shall be made and signed by the com-
24 missioner of public welfare and filed with the other
25 records at said institution relating to the former patient
26 whose property shall have been disposed of as afore-
27 said. The disposition of such property shall be made
28 without recourse to known next of kin of the former
29 patient.