

[Act No. 2122, February 01, 1912]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONFINEMENT OF INSANE PERSONS IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS OR OTHER INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE, AND FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF PHYSICIANS TO INQUIRE INTO THE MENTAL CONDITION OF PERSONS ALLEGED TO BE INSANE, WHEN THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO THE COURT, OR WHEN THERE EXISTS A REASONABLE DOUBT AS TO THE CONDITION OF ANY PATIENT CONFINED IN A HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Legislature, that:

SECTION 1. The Director of Health shall have authority to inquire into the history and mental condition of all insane or alleged insane persons and require information relating to such persons; to make such regulations as may be necessary for the sanitary erection, maintenance, and repair of buildings in which the insane are quartered, and to prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the public safety and for the general welfare and proper protection of all persons under treatment for insanity, whether such persons be under the care of public or private institutions or of their guardians or other persons in their homes.

SEC. 2. The Director of Health shall have authority to admit insane persons to any Government hospital or other place for insane upon such terms as the Secretary of the Interior may have approved and the money received on account of such patients shall be covered into the Treasury as a credit to the appropriation for the Bureau of Health.

Private institutions.

SEC. 3. Should the Government hospitals or other places for the insane become so crowded that more persons cannot be accommodated therein, or when for other reason it is desirable, the Director of Health shall be empowered to make contracts, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, with private institutions or persons for the care, custody, and treatment of persons coming within the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. The Director of Health, in all cases where in his opinion it is so far the public welfare or the welfare of any person who in his judgment is insane, and when such person or the person having charge of the patient is opposed to his being taken to a hospital or other place for the insane, shall present, or cause to be presented, a petition to the Court of First Instance of the district wherein the person alleged to be insane is found, alleging that such person is insane, that it is for the welfare of the public or of the patient that he be taken to a suitable place for treatment, and praying the court to commit such person to a hospital or other place for the insane. The judge of the Court of First Instance shall cause not less than five days' notice to be given of the date of the hearing of the petition to such alleged insane person or to the person having care of such alleged insane person, and to such of his relatives residing in the province or the city of Manila as the judge may deem proper, and shall order the sheriff to produce the alleged insane person if able to attend on the hearing. If the judge finds, after due hearing, that the person in question is insane,