

[Act No. 1711, September 12, 1907]

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE APPREHENSION, DETENTION, SEGREGATION, AND TREATMENT OF LEPERS IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

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

SECTION 1. The Director of Health and his authorized agents are hereby empowered to cause to be apprehended, and detained, isolated, segregated, or confined, all leprosy persons in the Philippine Islands and upon application of the Director of Health it shall duty of every Insular, provincial, or municipal official having powers to cause to be arrested and delivered to the Director of Health or his agents, any person alleged or believed to be a and it shall be the duty of such officers to assist in the consideration and if any person so arrested to such place as the Director of Health or his agents may require, in order that such person may be subject, to medical inspection, and such other procedure as may be necessary to establish a diagnosis, and thereafter to assist in removing such person to a place for detention, treatment, isolation, or segregation, if so required by the Director of Health or his agents: *Provided*, That all protests and petitions shall be given careful consideration and if the diagnosis is questioned, no person shall be permanently removed to Culion leper colony, or other place of segregation or detention, until the diagnosis of leprosy has been confirmed by bacteriological methods. Whenever the detention, treatment, isolation, or segregation of leprosy persons shall involve the security of property and money belonging to or held by said leprosy persons, the provincial treasurer, or such person as he may designate, shall act as guardian pending the appointment of a guardian by the Court of First Instance having jurisdiction in the province in which such person resides.

SEC. 2. Whoever shall knowingly detain or harbor on premises subject to his control, or shall in any manner conceal or secrete or assist in concealing or secreting, any person afflicted with leprosy, with the intent that such person be not discovered or delivered to the Director of Health or his agents, or who shall support or assist in supporting any leper living in concealment, shall, upon conviction, be punished as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of every police officer or other peace officer having reason to believe that any person within his district is afflicted with leprosy to report the fact forthwith to the district health officer of the district in which the case occurs. Any police officer or other peace officer who shall willfully fail to comply with the provisions of this section shall, upon conviction, be punished as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 4. The Director of Health is authorized to cause to be hospitals and camps, established hospitals and detention camps at such places as may be necessary, and where such hospitals and detention camps are established he may order the treatment of leprosy patients in the incipient stage in order to attempt a cure, and he may discharge such patients as he shall deem cured or free from leprosy, and send to a place of segregation and isolation all such patients as shall be considered by him incurable or capable of spreading the disease of leprosy. The Director of Health may permit any duly qualified and reputable physician to engage in the