

April 18, 1961.
Passed on File.

Senate File 502

By BOARD OF CONTROL COMMITTEE.

Passed Senate, Date 5-3-61 Passed House, Date 5-5-61
Vote: Ayes 49 Nays 0 Vote: Ayes 91 Nays 0

Approved.....

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to the costs of commitment of mentally ill persons who have no legal settlement in this state or whose legal settlement is unknown.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

- 1 Section 1. Section two hundred thirty point eleven (230.11),
- 2 Code 1958, as amended by chapter one hundred fifty-two (152),
- 3 section one hundred thirty-four (134), Acts of the Fifty-eighth
- 4 General Assembly, is hereby amended as follows:
- 5 1. By striking from line two (2) the word "arrest" and
- 6 inserting in lieu thereof the words "taking into custody".
- 7 2. By inserting in line three (3) after the word "been"
- 8 the words "admitted or".
- 9 3. By inserting in line four (4) after the word "hospital"
- 10 the words ", veterans administration hospital or other agency
- 11 of the United States Government,".
- 12 4. By striking from line twelve (12) the period (.) and
- 13 inserting in lieu thereof the words "or director of mental
- 14 health."

EXPLANATION OF SENATE FILE 502

The purpose of this bill is to enable the counties to collect commitment costs in non-resident cases.

Under federal regulations the veterans administration hospitals are obligated to immediately accept any veteran for treatment of mental illness if such disability is service connected. However, no provision is made by either the State of Iowa or the United States government for payment of commitment costs when the veteran is a nonresident of the State of Iowa or whose legal settlement is unknown.

In order to collect such costs the county would have to commit the veteran to a state hospital and the hospital would have to transfer the patient to a veterans hospital. The cost of such transfer would probably exceed the cost of commitment and would only cause the veteran further anxiety. There are few cases involved and the cost would be very nominal.

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