

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1920.

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## A BILL

To provide for the reception of voluntary patients into hospitals for the insane and licensed houses, and for their care and maintenance therein; to amend the Lunacy Act, 1898; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

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**B**E it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1.** This Act may be cited as the "Lunacy (Amend- Short title. ment) Act, 1920," and shall be read and construed with the Lunacy Act, 1898 (hereinafter called the Principal Act).

2. The Principal Act is amended by inserting after section twenty-four the following short heading and new section :—

(3) *Reception and maintenance of voluntary patients in hospitals for the insane and licensed houses.*

24A. (1) The superintendent of any hospital for the insane or licensed house may, with the consent in writing of the Inspector-General (which consent shall not be given without written application by the patient) receive, keep, and maintain in such hospital or licensed house, as a voluntary patient, any person who is desirous of submitting himself to treatment, but whose mental condition is not such as to render it necessary to grant a certificate of his insanity.

Consent of Inspector-General necessary for reception and maintenance of voluntary patients.

(2) Such voluntary patient shall not be deemed to be an "insane patient" or "patient" within the meaning of section three of the Principal Act.

Voluntary patient not within s. 3 of Principal Act.

(3) Every such patient shall be produced to the Inspector-General on his visits.

Production of patient to Inspector-General.

(4) No such patient shall be detained for more than seven days after he has given notice to such superintendent of his intention or desire to leave such hospital or licensed house.

Illegal detention of patient.

(5) Notice of the reception and of the discharge or death of such patient shall be given forthwith to the Inspector-General.

Notice to Inspector-General of reception, &c., of patient.

(6) The Master in Lunacy may, upon the written application of such patient, but not otherwise, undertake the administration and management of his property and estate.

Powers of Master in Lunacy.

(7) The Master in Lunacy may enter into agreements with such patient or his relatives or friends for payment of the expenses of and incidental to the care and maintenance of such patient in such hospital or licensed house, and may sue upon such agreements in any court of competent jurisdiction or compromise or waive his rights thereunder.

Agreements with Master in Lunacy for expenses of care and maintenance of patient.

(8)

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(8) Any moneys so agreed to be paid and not paid or recovered as aforesaid may be paid out of moneys voted by Parliament for the care and maintenance of insane patients. Moneys not paid or recovered under such agreements.

(9) Any person who without such consent as aforesaid receives a voluntary patient into any such hospital or licensed house or detains him therein in breach of the provisions of subsection four, or fails to produce him to the Inspector-General as aforesaid shall be guilty of a misdemeanour. Illegal reception, &c., a misdemeanour.

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