

## LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

## FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No.

935

Session of  
1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. SARIG, MARCH 17, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY SPECIAL,  
MARCH 18, 1919.

## AN ACT

To amend section two article one of an act approved the eighth day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight (Pamphlet Laws three hundred and ninety-nine) entitled "An act relative to the Berks county prison and to discharged convicts

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*  
2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*  
3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That*  
4 article one of section two of an act approved the eighth  
5 day of April one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight  
6 (Pamphlet Laws three hundred and ninety-nine) entitled  
7 "An act relative to the Berks county prison and to dis-  
8 charged convicts" which reads as follows

9 "They shall at their first meeting and annually there-  
10 after appoint of their number a president and secretary  
11 they shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings hold  
12 stated meetings once a month and adjourned and special

1 meetings whenever necessary they shall annually nominate  
2 and with approbation of the court of quarter sessions  
3 appoint a keeper matron and physician for the prison  
4 and shall fix their salaries or compensation as well as  
5 that of all other persons employed in and about the  
6 prison a majority of said inspectors shall constitute a  
7 board and may do any act or acts required of said  
8 inspectors and shall with the approbation of the court of  
9 quarter sessions of said county make such rules for the  
10 internal regulation and government of prison as shall not  
11 be inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of this  
12 Commonwealth or the principles of separate confinement as  
13 set forth and declared by this act they shall direct the  
14 manner in which all the bedding clothing provisions and  
15 all articles and supplies necessary for the support and  
16 employment of the persons confined in said prison shall  
17 be purchased and also the sale of all articles manufac-  
18 tured therein and shall direct the manner in which the  
19 convicts confined in said prison shall be employed they  
20 shall determine the quantity and the kind of food that  
21 shall be furnished daily to each person confined in said  
22 prison and the debtors' apartment they shall determine the  
23 bedding of all convicts prisoners and debtors the form  
24 and color of the uniform of male convicts and the kind  
25 of dress to be worn by female convicts and prisoners  
26 in summer and winter they shall at least by one of  
27 their number visit the prison and apartment for debtors  
28 at least once a week and oftener if necessary to see  
29 that the duties of the several officers and attendants are

1 correctly and strictly performed and to prevent all op-  
2 pression peculation or other abuse or mismanagement of  
3 said prison they shall on their visits to the cells and  
4 to the debtor apartment speak to each person confined  
5 therein and shall not be attended by any of the of-  
6 ficers of the prison unless thereto especially required by  
7 them they shall if required be furnished by the keeper  
8 with a calendar of the persons confined in said prison  
9 and shall by actual inspection see whether all the per-  
10 sons named in said calendar are confined in the respec-  
11 tive cells and apartment assigned to them and the con-  
12 victs employed as directed they shall have power to ex-  
13 amine any person upon oath or affirmation relative to  
14 any abuse or oppression in said prison or other matter  
15 within the purview of their duties they shall at any  
16 time after the annual period of appointing have power  
17 with the approbation of two of the judges of the court  
18 of quarter sessions the president being one to dismiss the  
19 keeper matron or physician and to supply vacancies thus  
20 or otherwise occurring they shall on or before the Mon-  
21 day of the first term of the court of quarter sessions  
22 in every year make a report in writing to the said  
23 court of the state of said prison the report shall con-  
24 tain the number of prisoners in confinement their age  
25 sex alleged place of nativity time of commitment for  
26 what offense noticing those who escaped died were par-  
27 doned or discharged also such observations on the effi-  
28 ciency of the system of separate confinement as may be  
29 the result of their experience and give such information

1 as they deem expedient for making said prison effectual  
2 in the punishment and reformation of offenders whereupon  
3 the said court may take such order on said report as  
4 they shall think proper and cause said report to be  
5 filed in the office of the clerk of the court aforesaid"  
6 is hereby amended to read as follows

7 They shall at their first meeting and annually there-  
8 after appoint of their number a president and secretary  
9 they shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings hold  
10 stated meetings once a month and adjourned and special  
11 meetings whenever necessary they shall quadrennially nomi-  
12 nate and with the approbation of the court of quarter  
13 sessions appoint a keeper matron physician and solicitor for  
14 the prison and shall fix their salaries or compensation as well as  
15 that of all other persons employed in and about the  
16 prison a majority of said inspectors shall constitute a  
17 board and may do any act or acts required of said  
18 inspectors and shall with the approbation of the court of  
19 quarter sessions of said county make such rules for the  
20 internal regulation and government of prison as shall not  
21 be inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this  
22 Commonwealth or the principles of separate confinement as  
23 set forth and declared by this act they shall direct the  
24 manner in which all the bedding clothing provisions and  
25 all articles and supplies necessary for the support and  
26 employment of the persons confined in said prison shall  
27 be purchased and also the sale of all articles manufac-  
28 tured therein and shall direct the manner in which the  
29 convicts confined in said prison shall be employed they

1 shall determine the quantity and the kind of food that  
2 shall be furnished daily to each person confined in said  
3 prison and the debtors' apartment they shall determine the  
4 bedding of all convicts prisoners and debtors the form  
5 and color of the uniform of male convicts and the kind  
6 of dress to be worn by female convicts and prisoners  
7 in summer and winter they shall at least by one of  
8 their number visit the prison and apartment for debtors  
9 at least once a week and oftener if necessary to see  
10 that the duties of the several officers and attendants are  
11 correctly and strictly performed and to prevent all op-  
12 pression peculation or other abuse or mismanagement of  
13 said prison they shall on their visits to the cells and  
14 to the debtor apartment speak to each person confined  
15 therein and shall not be attended by any of the officers  
16 of the prison unless thereto especially required by them  
17 they shall if required be furnished by the keeper with a  
18 calendar of the persons confined in said prison and shall  
19 by actual inspection see whether all the persons named  
20 in said calendar are confined in the respective cells and  
21 apartment assigned to them and the convicts employed as  
22 directed they shall have power to examine any person  
23 upon oath or affirmation relative to any abuse or op-  
24 pression in said prison or other matter within the pur-  
25 view of their duties they shall at any time after the  
26 annual period of appointing have power with the appro-  
27 bation of two of the judges of the court of quarter  
28 sessions the president being one to dismiss the keeper

1 matron physician or solicitor and to supply vacancies thus  
2 or otherwise occurring they shall on or before the Mon-  
3 day of the first term of the court of quarter sessions  
4 in every year make a report in writing to the said  
5 court, of the state of said prison the report shall contain  
6 the number of prisoners in confinement their age sex  
7 alleged place of nativity time of commitment for what  
8 offence noticing those who escaped died were pardoned or  
9 discharged also such observations on the efficiency of the  
10 system of separate confinement as may be the result of  
11 their experience and give such information as they may  
12 deem expedient for making said prison effectual in the  
13 punishment and reformation of offenders whereupon the said  
14 court may take such order on said report as they shall  
15 think proper and cause said report to be filed in office  
16 of the clerk of the court aforesaid

17 Section 2 The keeper matron physician and solicitor  
18 now in office shall continue in such office until the ex-  
19 piration of their respective terms