

No. 377

AN ACT

To amend the act, approved the twelfth day of June, one thousand nine hundred fifty-one (Pamphlet Laws 533), entitled "An act relating to mental health, including mental illness, mental defect, epilepsy and inebriety; and amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," by permitting temporary restraint of one alleged to be mentally ill.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Subsection (d) of section 326 of the act, approved the twelfth day of June, one thousand nine hundred fifty-one (Pamphlet Laws 533), entitled "An act relating to mental health, including mental illness, mental defect, epilepsy and inebriety; and amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," as amended by the act, approved the fourteenth day of January, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two (Pamphlet Laws 2053), is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 326. Petition of Commitment.—

* * * * *

(d) Every such petition shall be accompanied by the sworn or affirmed certificate of two qualified physicians, except in the case of a mental defective or an epileptic, when only one such certificate need be attached.

In any case where it appears to any judge of the court, or to a magistrate in the City of Philadelphia, that a reasonable necessity exists for temporary restraint of one alleged to be mentally ill, to permit an examination of such person by two qualified physicians to determine the propriety of such certificate, the judge may, by proper order, directed to any proper person or officer, require restraint of the alleged mentally ill person in the Philadelphia General Hospital or any other State aided institution, for a period not to exceed six hours prior to the examination and twenty-four hours thereafter.

APPROVED—The 21st day of August, A. D. 1953.

JOHN S. FINE

"The Mental Health Act of 1951."

Subsection (d) of section 326, act of June 12, 1951, P. L. 533, as amended by act of January 14, 1952, P. L. 2053, further amended.