

CHAP. XXXII.—*An Act to authorize the President of the United States to cause to be procured, by Purchase or otherwise, a suitable Steamer as a Revenue Cutter.*

Feb. 5, 1857.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be and is hereby authorized to cause to be procured, by purchase or otherwise, a suitable steamer as a revenue cutter; and that the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars be and is hereby appropriated for that purpose, out of any moneys now in the treasury of the United States, and not otherwise appropriated.

Steam Revenue Cutter to be procured.
\$150,000 appropriated.
1857, ch. 108, § 5.
Post, p. 228.

APPROVED, February 5, 1857.

CHAP. XXXVI.—*An Act supplementary to "An Act to organize an Institution for the Insane of the Army and Navy, and of the District of Columbia, in the said District," approved March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-five.*

Feb. 7, 1857.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That no insane person not charged with any breach of the peace shall ever hereafter be confined in the United States jail, or in the United States penitentiary, in this District.

1855, ch. 199.
Vol. x. p. 682.
No insane person not charged with a breach of the peace, to be confined in the jail or penitentiary.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Interior shall have power to grant his order for the admission into the government hospital for the insane, any insane person unable to support himself or herself and family, (or himself, or herself if he or she have no family,) under the visitation of insanity, who resided in the District at the time he or she became insane, and who is not charged with any breach of the peace, upon the certificate of any judge of the circuit or criminal court, or any justice of the peace of the District, stating that two respectable physicians appeared before said judge or justice and certified under oath, and under their hands, that they knew the party alleged to be insane, and that they believed him or her to be a fit subject for treatment in such hospital; also stating that two respectable householders, residents of the District, appeared before him and certified under oath, and under their hands, that they knew the party alleged to be insane and indigent, that he or she was a resident of the District at the time he or she was seized with the mental disorder under which he or she then labored, and that he or she was unable to pay his or her board and other expenses therein; and the certificate of such physicians, and the certificate of such householders shall accompany the certificate of such judge or justice. The application of [to] the Secretary of the Interior for his order for the admission of said indigent insane person into the said hospital must be made within five days after the examination of the witnesses before the said judge or justice of the peace, before such proceedings shall be had before such judge or justice.*

How admission to the asylum is to be obtained for insane persons, residents of the District of Columbia.

Certificate.

Proof that person is insane and indigent.

Within what time application to be made.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That the order of the Secretary of the Interior, granted under the authority of the second section of this act, shall authorize any police officer or constable to assist in carrying such indigent insane person to the hospital, whenever such assistance is represented to be necessary by the person holding the order; but all the expenses of witnesses before said judge or justice of the peace, and of carrying such patient to the hospital, shall be borne by his or her friends, or by the local authorities of the District.*

Police officers, &c., may assist in conveying insane persons there.

Expenses.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted, That any indigent insane person who did not reside in the District at the time he or she became insane, may in like manner as provided in the second section of this act, be admitted into the said hospital upon the application of the corporate authorities of the city of Washington, or of Georgetown, and at the expense of either of the said cities during the continuance of said insane person therein, it being hereby designed to give the superintendent thereof authority to take*

Admission of non-resident insane persons.

charge of such insane person until the authorities aforesaid can discover who his or her friends are, or whence he or she came, with a view to the return of such person to such friends, or to the place of his or her residence, and thus relieve said corporate authorities of the expense and charge of said indigent insane non-resident.

Insane persons charged with crime, admission of.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person, charged with crime, be found, in the court before which he or she is so charged, to be an insane person, such court shall certify the same to the Secretary of the Interior, who may order such person to be confined in said hospital, and if he or she be not indigent, he or she and his or her estate shall be charged with expenses of his or her support in said hospital.

Insane criminals admission of.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That any person becoming insane during the continuance of his or her sentence in the United States penitentiary, shall have the same privilege of treatment in the hospital during the continuance of his or her mental disorder as is granted in section five to persons who escape the consequences of criminal acts by reason of insanity, unless it be the opinion, both of the physician to the penitentiary and the superintendent of the hospital, that such insane convict is so depraved and furious in his or her character as to render his or her custody in the hospital insecure, and his or her example pernicious.

Notice to be given of their return to sanity.

SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted*, That when any person confined in said hospital, charged with crime and subject to be tried therefor, or convicted of crime and undergoing sentence therefor, shall be restored to sanity, the superintendent of the hospital shall give notice thereof to the judge of the criminal court, and deliver him or her to said court in obedience to the proper precept.

Admission of independent or pay patients.

SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the independent or pay patients may be received into the hospital on the certificate of two respectable physicians of the District, stating that they have personally examined the patient, and believe him or her to be insane at the time of giving the certificate, and a fit subject for treatment in the institution, accompanied by a written request for the admission from the nearest relatives, legal guardian, or friend of the patient, where he or she may remain until restored to reason: *Provided*, The friends of the patient comply with the regulations of the hospital in respect to payment of board, and in all other respects. The request for admission must be made within five days of the date of the certificate of insanity.

Release of patients on giving bond.

SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person will give bond, with sufficient security, to be approved by the criminal court, or circuit court, or any judge thereof in vacation, payable to the United States, with condition to restrain and take care of any independent or indigent insane person not charged with a breach of the peace, whether in the hospital or not, until the insane person is restored to sanity, such court or judge thereof may, in its discretion, deliver such insane person to the party giving such bond.

APPROVED, February 7, 1857.

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CHAP. XXXVII.—*An Act for regulating the Terms of the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, and for other Purposes.*

Court may fix the number and times of its sessions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the circuit court of the District of Columbia shall have power, by rule of court, to regulate the periods of holding the terms of said court, and to fix the number of such terms, and the same, from time to time, to alter, as public convenience may require: *Provided*, That at least three terms shall be held annually. And all suits, or actions at law, shall stand for judgment or trial at the term next after that to which process shall be returned executed, unless good cause for further continuance be shown.

APPROVED, February 7, 1857.