

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.

Feb. 7, 1857.

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.