

No. 379.

AN ACT

To amend sections fourteen, fifteen, and seventeen of an act, approved the twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand three hundred eleven), entitled "An act providing for the establishment of a State Industrial Home for Women; authorizing the purchase of a site, and the erection thereon and equipment of necessary buildings; providing for the commitment to said State Industrial Home for Women of females between the ages of sixteen and thirty years, convicted of, or pleading guilty to, the commission of any criminal offense; and providing for the government and management of said institution; and making an appropriation to carry out the purposes of this act," by changing the procedure of transfer, sentence, and commitment, and making certain changes in the eligibility of women prisoners for commitment to said institution, and providing a method of transfer to and from Laurelton State Village.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That sections fourteen, fifteen, and seventeen of an act, approved the twenty-fifth day of July, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand three hundred eleven), entitled "An act providing for the establishment of a State Industrial Home for Women; authorizing the purchase of a site, and the erection thereon and equipment of necessary buildings; providing for the commitment to said State Industrial Home for Women of females between the ages of sixteen and thirty years, convicted of, or pleading guilty to, the commission of any criminal offense; and providing for the government and management of said institution; and making an appropriation to carry out the purposes of this act," is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 14. Whenever there is unoccupied room in the Industrial Home the board of [managers] *trustees* may make requisitions upon the authorities of any penitentiary or prison, who shall select such number as is required by such requisition from among the *female inmates thereof, beginning with the most youthful, well-behaved, and [most] promising [women convicts in the State and county prisons of the class described in section fifteen of this act,] of such inmates who have the longest unexpired terms to serve, and transfer them to the State Industrial Home for Women for education and treatment under the rules and regulations thereof, and the board of [managers] trustees are hereby authorized to receive, and detain during the remainder of the term of their sentence to the State or county prisons [prison], such prisoners so transferred, and the laws applicable to convicts in the state or county prisons [prison], so far as they relate to the commutation of imprisonment for good conduct and the pro-*

State Industrial
Home for Women.

Procedure for
commitment, etc.

Sections 14, 15
and 17 of act of
July 25, 1913 (P.
L. 1311), amended.

Requisitions for
prisoners.

visions of this act, shall be applicable to said convicts when transferred under this section.

Sentence to the home.

Notice to courts that home is ready to receive such prisoners.

Sentence to be indeterminate.

Women 25 years of age or over.

Duration of imprisonment.

Section 15. Any court of record in this Commonwealth, exercising criminal jurisdiction, may, in its discretion, sentence to the [said] *State Industrial Home for Women* any female [between] over sixteen [and thirty] years of age, upon conviction for, or upon pleading guilty of, the commission of any criminal offense punishable under the laws of this State. *After due notice given to all courts of record exercising criminal jurisdiction in this Commonwealth by the board of trustees of said State Industrial Home for Women that the said home is prepared to receive all women so convicted or pleading guilty of an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than a year who shall be sentenced to imprisonment, such sentence in all cases shall be to confinement in said State Industrial Home for Women.* [Said] *Every sentence imposed pursuant to this act shall in the case of women under twenty-five years of age be merely a general one to the State Industrial Home for Women, and shall not fix or limit the duration thereof; and in the case of women twenty-five years of age and over shall be as provided by the act, approved the twenty-ninth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three (Pamphlet Laws, nine hundred seventy-five), number three hundred and ninety-seven, entitled "An act to amend section six of the act, approved the nineteenth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws, one thousand fifty-five), entitled "An act authorizing the release on probation of certain convicts, instead of imposing sentences; the appointment of probation and parole officers, and the payment of their salaries and expenses; regulating the manner of sentencing convicts in certain cases, and providing for their release on parole; their conviction of crime during parole, and their rearrest and reconviction for breach of parole; and extending the powers and duties of boards of prison inspectors of penitentiaries."* The duration of such imprisonment, including the time spent on parole, shall not exceed three years, for any and all women so sentenced under the age of twenty-five years, except where the maximum term specified by law for the crime for which the prisoner was sentenced shall exceed that period, in which event such maximum term, including the time spent on parole, shall be the limit of detention under the provisions of this act; but for any and all women sentenced to said *State Industrial Home for Women* of the age of twenty-five years and more the board of trustees may, at its discretion, at the expiration of the minimum term of sentence of such inmate of twenty-five or more years of age, place such inmate on parole. Said parole shall not extend for a greater period than the maximum term of said commitment.

Upon the commitment or transfer of any women to the State Industrial Home for Women the board of managers thereof shall segregate and keep apart in separate cottages the more hardened offenders.

Segregation of more hardened offenders.

[Section 17. The board of managers of the Industrial Home may transfer temporarily to either State penitentiary any female committed to the Industrial Home who may be incorrigible, or whose presence in the Industrial Home may be seriously detrimental to the well-being of the institution. The managers may subsequently, by written requisition, require the return to the Industrial Home of any female who may have been so transferred.]

Section 17. Whenever an inmate of the State Industrial Home for Women shall be found to be mentally defective to such a degree as to be seriously detrimental to the well being of the institution, or whenever any such inmate by reason of such defect cannot properly be cared for therein, the board of trustees of the Industrial Home shall so notify the Department of Welfare. After investigation the Department of Welfare may then authorize the board of trustees of the Industrial Home for Women to make application for the commitment of the said inmate to the Laurelton State Village in accordance with the procedure prescribed by section three hundred and eleven of the act, approved the eleventh day of July, one thousand nine hundred twenty-three (Pamphlet Laws, nine hundred ninety-eight), entitled "An act for the prevention and treatment of mental diseases, mental defect, epilepsy and inebriety; regulating the admission and commitment of mental patients to hospitals for mental diseases and institutions for mental defectives and epileptics; governing the transfer, discharge, inter-state rendition, and deportation of mental patients; providing for the payment by individuals, counties, or the Commonwealth of the cost of the admission, care, and discharge of mental patients; and imposing penalties."

Transfer of mentally defective inmates to Laurelton State Village.

APPROVED—The 14th day of May, A. D. 1925.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.