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39TH CONGRESS,
2D SESSION.

H. R. 1142.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1867.

Read twice, referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. INGERSOLL, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To amend the act entitled "An act to incorporate a 'Newsboys' Home,'" and also for the relief of abandoned children in the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the name of the Newsboys' Home be changed to that of the "Newsboys' Home and Children's Aid Society" of the District of Columbia, and that the powers and duties of the president and board of managers be enlarged, so that they may receive such vagrant, indigent, or abandoned minor children as may be committed to their custody, as hereinafter provided for; also, at their discretion, they may receive from parents or others charged with the maintenance of minor children, whom said parents and other persons have not the means of

12 maintaining, the children of such parents and children under
13 the care of such other person as is hereinafter provided.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That said associa-
2 tion be fully empowered to provide and care for all such
3 minor children in such manner as they may deem proper, so
4 as best to secure their welfare, food, clothing, mental and
5 moral training; and for this purpose they may provide homes
6 in the families of competent persons anywhere within the
7 United States, and convey such minor children to said homes,
8 and execute, under the seal of said corporation, proper writ-
9 ings, securing to the heads of families or others so selected
10 the control and management of said children for the period
11 therein set forth, and which shall also secure to said children
12 proper maintenance, care, and education. And said writings,
13 so executed, shall secure to such persons the exclusive custody
14 and care of such children, for the period named, against the
15 claim and interference of all persons whomsoever.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That, upon complaint
2 in writing, on oath, of any reliable person, all courts and
3 magistrates of said District, authorized by law to issue pro-
4 cess, are empowered to cause to be brought before them all
5 destitute or abandoned minor children and the minor children
6 of beggars or vagrants, and of all others who have not the
7 means or who refuse to support and maintain such minor
8 children, or abuse them, so that they can be shown to be des-

9 titute or abandoned, vagrant, or abused, to be dealt with as
10 provided for in this act, for which purpose they may subpœna
11 witnesses and hear the allegations of the parties in interest,
12 and in proper cases made by the proof to commit such
13 children to the custody and care of the Newsboys' Home
14 and Children's Aid Society; and said commitment shall
15 vest the exclusive control of such children in said asso-
16 ciation for the full period therein named, to the exclu-
17 sion of all other persons whomsoever; and said courts
18 and magistrates shall keep a proper record of all such cases,
19 when for any causes the persons before them are committed
20 to the Newsboys' Home and Children's Aid Society, showing
21 the name, age, sex, and length of time of such committal.
22 And it is made the further duty of said courts and magistrates
23 to report each year to the supreme court of the District of
24 Columbia all such cases. It is also made the duty of the
25 marshal, his deputies, and all police officers, constables, and
26 bailiffs of the District of Columbia to execute all processes
27 authorized by this act which shall come to them severally.
28 The supreme court of said District shall also prescribe the
29 proper forms to be used by the courts, magistrates, and other
30 officers of the District, to carry this act into execution and fix
31 the time when the annual report shall be made, hereinbefore
32 provided for, and shall also establish a table of fees for the

33. services required to be performed, which shall be paid as other
34 costs in like cases in the District are now paid.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That all persons in
2 the District of Columbia, the parents of minor children, or
3 charged with the maintenance of minor children whom they
4 are, for want of means, unable to maintain, may, upon mak-
5 ing that to appear to the satisfaction of the president and
6 board of managers of the Newsboys' Home and Children's
7 Aid Society, by writing properly executed to said president
8 and board, transfer to them the care and custody of such
9 minor children for the full period of time for which persons stand
10 charged with the maintenance of such minor children, and such
11 written transfer shall vest the custody of such minor children
12 in said Newsboys' Home and Children's Aid Society against
13 all persons whomsoever; further, when so committed such
14 parents or guardians shall have no power to interfere with
15 such children, or disturb said society, or any person to whom
16 said society may bind or otherwise dispose of said children,
17 either in this District or elsewhere, and any interference with
18 said children or other children committed to said society may
19 be punished by the criminal court or justices of the peace in
20 the United States by a fine not to exceed twenty dollars or
21 imprisonment not to exceed thirty days; but any parent or
22 guardian may apply to said criminal court or said justices of

23 the peace in any complaint they may desire to make as to
24 said society dealing with said children.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the
2 duty of the president and board of managers of said associa-
3 tion to keep a full and complete record of its doings and pro-
4 ceedings under this act, which shall, at all proper times, be
5 accessible to all persons for information. They shall also,
6 annually, report to the supreme court of said District the
7 number of children received, indicating whether by regular
8 commitment or voluntary transfer, with the name, age, sex,
9 and disposition of the same, with a summary of the suc-
10 cess and prosperity of said association. They shall also have
11 power to establish proper and necessary by-laws for the
12 transaction of business and the regulation of the affairs of
13 the association, and to do all the necessary acts and things to
14 accomplish the full objects of this aid.