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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

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JANUARY 31, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. VEST, from the Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2680.]

The Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine, to which was referred the bill (S. 1703) entitled "A bill to establish a department of public health," also the bill (S. 2343) entitled "A bill to create an executive department to be known as the department of public health, and to prescribe the duties and powers thereof," and the bill (S. 2680) entitled "A bill amending 'An act granting additional quarantine powers and imposing additional duties on the Marine-Hospital Service,' approved February fifteenth, eighteen hundred and ninety-three," submit the following report:

In the consideration of these bills the first question to be determined is whether the present system of quarantine under the control of the Marine-Hospital Service shall be abandoned; and, if so, shall there be created an Executive Department, to be known as "the department of health," with a Cabinet officer at its head, the duties and powers of such department to be those set forth in Senate bill No. 2343, or shall there be established a department of health with an officer in control to be known as the secretary of health, with the powers and duties prescribed in Senate bill No. 1703.

It will be seen by an examination of Senate bill No. 2343 that in addition to creating a new department, with all the machinery incident thereto, it establishes two boards, one to be styled the board of maritime sanitation, to be composed of 22 members, or 1 from each seaboard State, and another to be known as the board of domestic sanitation, composed of 3 members, none of whom shall be appointed from a seaboard State.

The board of maritime sanitation so created is given exclusive control of all matters pertaining to the prevention of the introduction of diseases from foreign countries, and the board of domestic sanitation is given exclusive charge of all domestic quarantine and exclusive power to declare and enforce quarantine between the States and Territories and between the communities of a State or Territory. It also has the