

## CHAPTER 70.

[ S. S. B. 105. ]

## PLACES OF REFUGE.

AN ACT relating to the licensing and supervision of "Places of Refuge"; defining terms; prescribing the duties of officers in connection therewith; fixing fees; authorizing County Commissioners to adopt standard building codes and standard fire regulations in connection therewith; providing for appeal from certain decisions; defining offenses and providing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. The term "Place of Refuge" when used in this act shall mean any hospital, asylum, alms house, building or dwelling for housing the aged, infirm, imbeciles, children or delinquents, wherein three or more persons, not related by blood or marriage to the householder, owner, operator or manager thereof, are lodged or boarded more than fifteen (15) days in any calendar month: *Provided*, That the term shall not include any hospital approved by the American College of Surgeons or the American College of Physicians.

"Place of Refuge" defined.

Hospitals excepted.

SEC. 2. No person, firm or corporation shall maintain or advertise the maintenance of any Place of Refuge without applying for and receiving from the County Commissioners, City Commissioners or City Council of the county or city wherein such Place of Refuge is located, a license for the operation of such Place of Refuge. Such license shall be issued annually on or before July 1 of each calendar year and shall expire on June 30 of each year. The fee for said license shall be two dollars (\$2.00) per year.

License required.

Fee.

SEC. 3. The County Commissioners of each county shall, before granting any license to any Place of Refuge, require that the premises to be licensed, be inspected by the County Health Officer

Inspection.

and by a fire inspector, and shall further require that said licensed premises be inspected quarterly by said County Health Officer: *Provided, however,* That in incorporated cities having a paid fire department and which have adopted a building code, the license shall be issued by the City Council or City Commission, as the case may be, after proper inspection by the City Health Officer and Fire Chief.

License may  
be revoked.

SEC. 4. The County Commissioners or City Council or City Commissioners shall have the right to deny or revoke a license to any Place of Refuge if upon inspection thereof, it is found that the Place of Refuge is insanitary or in an unsafe condition as relates to health or fire hazards: *Provided,* That the County Commissioners, City Council or City Commissioners shall promptly notify the owner, operator or manager of such Place of Refuge as to the manner in which the premises may qualify for a license and set forth the conditions to be remedied previous to such licensing, renewal or revocation.

Notice.

Codes and  
regulations.

SEC. 5. County Commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered, with reference to Places of Refuge as in this act defined, to adopt standard building codes and standard fire regulations to be applied within their respective jurisdictions, said codes and regulations to have the approval of the State Fire Marshal before final adoption by such County Commissioners.

Applicable  
to all.

SEC. 6. The building codes or fire regulations when adopted by the County Commissioners shall be applicable to all Places of Refuge whether heretofore or hereafter constructed or converted: *Provided,* That where the licenses are issued by cities, as provided in section 3 hereof, such building codes or fire regulations so adopted by such County Commissioners shall not be applicable in any such city.

May demand  
formal order.

SEC. 7. Any owner, operator or manager of a Place of Refuge deeming any order of the County

Commissioners, City Commissioners or City Council to be arbitrary or contrary to law may demand and obtain, within ten (10) days of request therefor, a formal order of denial or revocation. Such order shall set forth findings as to conditions on or about the premises which caused such denial or revocation of such license. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of such formal order denying or revoking such license, the aggrieved party may appeal by way of writ of review to the Superior Court of the county wherein such Place of Refuge is located. The Superior Court may order the taking of testimony as to the facts at issue and uphold the order, or it may overrule the order setting forth in what particular it is deemed that the order is arbitrary and contrary to law. Appeal to the Supreme Court may be taken from the judgment of the Superior Court as in civil actions.

Method of appeal.

SEC. 8. Any person, firm or corporation which shall operate and maintain a Place of Refuge without having in force a license so to do, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Penalty for violation.

SEC. 9. The invalidity of any provision of this act shall not affect the validity of any other provision thereof.

Validity clause.

SEC. 10. This act is necessary for the immediate support of the state government, and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Effective immediately.

Passed the Senate February 5, 1943.

Passed the House March 3, 1943.

Approved by the Governor March 9, 1943.