

which supplies and equipment may be stored and issued upon proper requisition by department heads. The Purchasing Agent shall be responsible for maintaining perpetual inventories of supplies and equipment and shall at least yearly, or oftener when so required by the Board, report to the County Commissioners a balancing of the inventory record with the actual amount of supplies or equipment on hand.

Inventories.

Report.

Effective immediately.

SEC. 4. In the event of an emergency when the public interest or property of the county would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the Board of County Commissioners declaring the existence of such emergency and reciting the facts constituting the same, the Board may waive the requirements of this act with reference to any purchase or contract.

Passed the House March 1, 1945.

Passed the Senate March 6, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1945.

CHAPTER 62.

[S. B. 62.]

COUNTY HOSPITALS.

AN ACT relating to and regulating the operation of county hospitals and amending section 8, chapter 174, Laws Extraordinary Session, 1925.

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

Amendments.

SECTION 1. That section 8, chapter 174, Laws Extraordinary Session, 1925, be amended to read as follows:

Section 8. Patients shall be admitted to such hospitals in accordance with the rules to be established by the Board of County Commisisoners, but such rules shall provide that preference in the admission

of patients shall be given to those unable to pay for their care in private institutions. Whenever a patient has been admitted to such hospital from the county in which the hospital is situated, the Superintendent shall cause inquiry to be made as to his circumstances, and of the relatives of such patient legally liable for his support. If he finds that such patient or said relatives legally liable for his support, are able to pay for his treatment in whole or in part, an order shall be made directing such patient, or said relatives to pay to the County Treasurer for the support of such patient, a specified sum per week, in proportion to their financial ability, but such sum shall not exceed that charged by private hospital of similar size in the county for service of like character. The County Commissioners shall have the power and authority to collect such sum from said patient or his estate, or from his relatives legally liable for his support. If the Superintendent finds that such patient, or said relatives, are not able to pay, either in whole or in part, for his care and treatment in such hospital, said patient shall be admitted free of charge.

Payment
by patients
in county
hospitals.

Passed the Senate March 1, 1945.

Passed the House February 28, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1945.

CHAPTER 63.

[S. B. 103.]

PUBLIC WORKS—WAGES.

AN ACT relating to public works, providing for the payment of the prevailing rate of wage, and providing penalties for its violation.

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

SECTION 1. The hourly wages to be paid to laborers, workmen or mechanics, upon all public