

CHAPTER 65.

[H. B. No. 49.]

FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF CONTAGIOUS
DISEASES.

AN ACT for the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases; defining the methods and fixing the penalty for the violation and repealing sections in conflict with this act.

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

SECTION 1. The board of county commissioners of each and every county in this State shall be constituted a county board of health for such county, and said board of commissioners' jurisdiction shall be co-extensive with the boundaries of said county except that nothing herein contained shall give said board jurisdiction in cities of the first class. The chairman of the board of county commissioners shall be president of the county board of health, and the county auditor shall be clerk thereof; they shall appoint a legally qualified physician county health officer, who shall also be the county physician and who shall be ex-officio a member of the county board of health and shall be the executive officer thereof. They may appoint as many sanitary officers as they deem necessary and fix the compensation of all appointees, who shall serve during the pleasure of the board. In case of the refusal or neglect of any county board of health to appoint a health officer, the State Board of Health may make such appointment for such county for one year and fix the compensation, and a health officer so appointed shall have the same duty, power and authority as though appointed by the county board of health. The county board of health shall make such report to the State Board of Health as the State board may require.

SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the county board of health to make such rules and regulations as in their opinion may be necessary for the prevention, suppression and control of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease, which rules and regulations shall take effect from and after the approval of the State Board of Health. They shall have the authority to establish and maintain a pest house or isolation hospital or quarantine station, and to restrain,

quarantine, vaccinate or disinfect any person or persons sick with or exposed to any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease, in accordance with their rules and regulations, and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health.

Duties of health officers.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of all health officers, upon the appearance of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease within their jurisdiction, immediately to investigate all circumstances concerning such disease and to make a full report thereof to the county board of health and to the State Board of Health, and at all times promptly to take such measures for the prevention, suppression and control of such disease as may be needful and proper. The health officer shall have the power to remove to and restrain in the pest house or isolation hospital or to quarantine or isolate any person sick with any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease until such sick person shall have thoroughly recovered and been disinfected. He may also quarantine, isolate, restrain, vaccinate or disinfect any person or persons exposed to any dangerous, infectious or contagious disease in such manner and for such time as he may deem best, or the State Board of Health may direct. The health officer shall report to the State Board of Health concerning the progress of any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease, and the measures taken for its prevention, at such intervals as the State Board of Health may direct.

To make Quarantine rules.

Report of health officer.

Attending physician to report.

SEC. 4. Whenever any physician shall attend any person residing without the limits of any incorporated city who is sick with any dangerous, contagious or infectious disease, or with any disease required to be reported by the State Board of Health, he shall, within twenty-four hours, give notice thereof to the clerk of the county board of health of the county in which such sick person may then be.

Opinion as to character of disease—to be final.

SEC. 5. In case of the question arising as to whether or not any person is affected or is sick with a dangerous, contagious or infectious disease, the opinion of the health officer shall prevail until the State Board of Health can be notified, and then the opinion of the executive officer of the State Board of Health, or any member or physician he may appoint to examine such case, shall be final.

Contagion defined.

SEC. 6. The term, "Dangerous, contagious or infectious disease," as used in this act shall be construed and under-

stood to mean such disease or diseases as the State Board of Health shall designate as contagious or infectious and dangerous to the public health.

SEC. 7. Any person violating any of the provisions of this act or violating or refusing or neglecting to obey any of the rules and regulations or orders made in accordance with this act for the prevention, suppression and control of dangerous, contagious or infectious diseases by the county board of health or health officer or State Board of Health, or who shall leave any pest house or isolation hospital or any quarantine house or place without the consent of the proper officer, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00 or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed ninety days, or both. Any county commissioner or health officer or other officer or physician who shall refuse or neglect to enforce the provisions of this act, or who shall refuse or neglect to enforce or obey any of the rules and regulations or orders of the State Board of Health made for the prevention, suppression and control of dangerous, contagious or infectious diseases, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$100.00 or to imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed ninety days, or both.

SEC. 8. All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this act, or any of them, shall be paid by the county by which or in behalf of which such expenses shall have been incurred.

Passed the House February 24, 1903.

Passed the Senate March 5, 1903.

Approved by the Governor March 12, 1903.