

SEC. 31. This act is necessary for the support of state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect July 1, 1941. Effective date.

Passed the Senate March 13, 1941.

Passed the House March 12, 1941.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1941.

---

## CHAPTER 128.

[S. B. 324.]

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

AN ACT relating to the care, service and assistance of needy persons; defining the duties of certain officers in regard thereto, providing that public assistance records shall be confidential, providing a fair hearing for certain persons, amending sections 3, 4, and 10, chapter 216, Laws of 1939 (sections 10,007-103a, 10,007-104a and 10,007-110a, Remington's Revised Statutes) and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3, chapter 216, Laws of 1939 (10,007-103a, Remington's Revised Statutes) is amended to read as follows: Amendments.

Section 3. The personnel required to carry out the provisions of this act shall be employed under a merit system plan of personnel administration which shall be established on such basis as to conform with the standards of the federal government with regard to personnel administration. The committee shall establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the merit system plan: *Provided*, That if the Department of Social Security is authorized or directed by law or the order of the Governor to join with one or more departments, boards, commissions or offices of state government in establishing a joint or general merit system, rules and regulations shall be Merit system for personnel

Basis.

Proviso.

May have uniform system in all departments.

Administration to be independent.

Social Security to conform to Federal system.

adopted by the board, commission, or agency administering such joint or general merit system which board, commission, or agency shall be independent of the departments, boards, commissions, or offices joining in such joint or general merit system: *Provided further*, That as to the Department of Social Security such rules and regulations shall conform to the requirements of the federal government with regard to personnel administration.

Amendments.

SEC. 2. Section 4, chapter 216, Laws of 1939 (10,007-104a, Remington's Revised Statutes) is amended to read as follows:

Counties to establish welfare department.

Administrator. Duties.

To furnish bond.

Section 4. The County Commissioners of each county in the state, in order to carry out their responsibility under this act shall establish a county welfare department which shall have full charge of administration of public assistance within the county. The welfare department shall be in charge of a County Administrator who shall be appointed by the County Commissioners in accordance with the rules and regulations of the merit system. Upon the appointment of the County Administrator, that officer shall have the power to, and shall, employ such assistants as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, which employment shall be on the merit basis in accordance with the merit system rules and regulations. The County Administrator before qualifying shall furnish a surety bond in such amount as may be fixed by the committee, but not less than \$5,000, conditioned that the administrator will faithfully account for all money and property that may come into his possession or control.

Amendments.

SEC. 3. Section 10, chapter 216, Laws of 1939, (10,007-110a, Remington's Revised Statutes) is amended to read as follows:

Levy tax.

Section 10. Each county in the state shall levy annually a tax upon the assessed valuation of its

taxable property at a rate of not less than three mills for public assistance purposes. A sum equal to the amount so assessed, together with revenues accruing to the county from the administration of the public assistance program shall be deposited in the county current expense fund in an assistance account and shall be disbursed by warrant of the County Auditor upon a prescribed form authenticated by the County Administrator and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Disbursements of moneys in such account shall be made primarily for general assistance purposes and shall conform to the uniform standards established as specified in this act. General assistance within the meaning of this section shall include hospital and institutional care, medical care and public health activities.

Assistance  
account.

Method of  
disburse-  
ment.

In the event that any county in the state does not for general assistance purposes require the sum assessed as provided in this section, taken in conjunction with revenues accruing to the county from the administration of public assistance programs, it shall so report to the Department of Social Security, stating the amount of the over-plus or estimated over-plus, and the Director shall immediately bill the county for the return to the state of moneys theretofore allocated to the county and expended for Federal-aid assistance, in an amount equal to such over-plus or estimated over-plus. The Director shall certify the bill to the County Auditor who shall immediately issue a warrant against the county current expense fund and forward the same to the Director who shall transmit the warrant to the State Treasurer for deposit in the general fund.

Surplus to be  
returned to  
state.

SEC. 4. An applicant for or recipient of Federal aid assistance aggrieved because of a county department's decision or delay in making a decision shall be entitled to appeal to the Department of Social Security in the manner prescribed by the depart-

Appeal from  
county  
department.

County bound by department ruling.

ment and shall be afforded reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing by the department. All decisions of the department made on appeal shall be final as to questions of fact and shall be binding upon and shall be complied with by the county department.

The department may, on its own motion, review individual cases and make determinations which shall be binding upon the county department. An applicant or recipient affected by such review shall upon request be afforded reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair hearing by the department.

Applicant may appeal to courts.

Any person aggrieved by the decision of the department may appeal to the Superior Courts by proceedings in certiorari.

Rule-making power of department.

SEC. 5. The rule-making power of the Department of Social Security shall include the power to establish and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the custody, use and preservation of the records, papers, files and communications of the State Department of Social Security and the County Welfare Departments. The use of such records, papers, files and communications by any other agency or department of government to which they may be furnished shall be limited to the purposes for which they are furnished. It shall be unlawful except for purposes directly connected with the administration of general assistance, old-age assistance, aid to the blind and aid to dependent children and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the State Department of Social Security for any person or persons to solicit, disclose, receive, make use of, or to authorize, knowingly permit, participate in, or acquiesce in the use of, any list, or names of, or any information concerning, persons applying for or receiving such assistance, directly or indirectly derived from the records, papers, files or communications of the state or county or subdivisions or

Unlawful to divulge information from records.

agencies thereof or acquired in the course of the performance of official duties.

SEC. 6. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and the support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect April 1, 1941. Effective date.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1941.

Passed the House March 12, 1941.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1941.

---

## CHAPTER 129.

[S. B. 325.]

### SERVICE TO CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

AN ACT relating to and providing for services to crippled children; describing the powers and duties of certain state officers in connection therewith; repealing section 7, chapter 114, Laws of 1937 (section 9992-107, Remington's Revised Statutes) and providing that this act shall take effect April 1, 1941.

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

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the Director of Health and he shall have the power to establish and administer a program of services for children who are crippled or who are suffering from physical conditions which lead to crippling, which shall provide for developing, extending, and improving services for locating such children, and for providing for medical, surgical, corrective, and other services and care, and facilities for diagnosis, hospitalization, and after care; to supervise the administration of those services, included in the program, which are not administered directly by it; to extend and improve any such services, including those in existence on the effective date of this act; to cooperate with med-

Duty of Director of Health.

Service to crippled children.