

CHAPTER 111.

[S. B. 150.]

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY.

AN ACT creating the state department of social security and several divisions thereof, providing for the appointment of officers to administer such department and divisions and prescribing their powers and duties, abolishing the department of public welfare and divisions thereof, providing for the transfer of property and business of such department to the department of social security and declaring that the act shall take effect April 1, 1937.

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

Department
of Social
Security
created.

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a department of the state government which shall be known as the department of social security. The chief executive officer thereof, who shall be designated the director of social security, shall be appointed by the governor, with the consent of the Senate, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the governor. If the Senate be not in session when this act takes effect or if a vacancy occur while the Senate is not in session, the governor shall make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the Senate, when he shall present to the Senate his nomination for the office.

Six
divisions.

SEC. 2. The department of social security shall be organized into and consist of six divisions to be designated, respectively, (1) the division of public assistance, (2) the division of old-age pensions, (3) the division of unemployment compensation, (4) the division of employment service, (5) the division for children and, (6) the division for the blind.

Director to
have gen-
eral charge
and super-
vision.

SEC. 3. The director of social security shall have general charge and supervision of the department of social security and shall have power to employ such

clerical and other office personnel as may be necessary for the general administration of the department.

SEC. 4. The director of social security shall appoint and deputize six assistant directors to be designated, respectively, the supervisor of public assistance, the supervisor of old-age pensions, the supervisor of unemployment compensation, the supervisor of employment service, the supervisor of children and the supervisor of the blind, who shall have charge and supervision, respectively, of the division of public assistance, the division of old-age pensions, the division of unemployment compensation, the division of employment service, the division for children and the division for the blind. Each such assistant director shall have power, with the approval of the director of social security, to appoint and employ such assistants and clerical and other office personnel as may be necessary to carry on the work of his division.

Assistant
directors.

SEC. 5. The director of social security shall have power, with the approval of the governor, to make such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the powers and duties of his department.

Rules and
regulations.

SEC. 6. The director of social security shall have the power and it shall be his duty, through and by means of the division of public assistance:

Division of
public
assistance.

(1) To exercise all the powers and perform all the duties now vested in, and required to be performed by, the division of relief of the department of public welfare and to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties now exercised and performed by the department of public welfare, or which may hereafter be conferred, in respect to the administration of general public assistance, including assistance to persons who are unemployed, sick, or indigent;

(2) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

Division of
old-age
pensions.

SEC. 7. The director of social security shall have the power and it shall be his duty, through and by means of the division of old-age pensions:

(1) To exercise all the powers and perform all the duties now vested in, and required to be performed by, the division of social security of the department of public welfare in respect to the administration of old-age assistance;

(2) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

Division of
unemploy-
ment com-
pensation.

SEC. 8. The director of social security shall have the power and it shall be his duty, through and by means of the division of unemployment compensation:

(1) To exercise all the powers and perform all the duties which may by law be vested in, and required to be performed by the State of Washington or any officer or agency thereof, in respect to the administration of unemployment compensation;

(2) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

Division of
employment
service.

SEC. 9. The director of social security shall have the power and it shall be his duty, through and by means of the division of employment service:

(1) To exercise all the powers and perform all the duties which may by law be vested in, and required to be performed by the State of Washington or any officer or agency thereof, in respect to the administration of the Washington state employment service;

(2) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

Division for
children.

SEC. 10. The director of social security shall have the power and it shall be his duty, through and by means of the division for children:

(1) To exercise all the powers and perform all the duties now vested in, and required to be per-

formed by, the division of child welfare of the department of public welfare;

(2) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 11. The director of social security shall have the power and it shall be his duty, through and by means of the division for the blind:

Division for
the blind.

(1) To exercise all the powers and perform all the duties now exercised and performed by the department of public welfare, or which may hereafter be conferred, in respect to the administration of assistance, pecuniary or otherwise, to blind persons;

(2) To exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 12. The director of social security shall be the responsible state officer for the administration of, and the disbursement of all funds which may be received by the state in connection with, old-age assistance, unemployment compensation, the Washington state employment service, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, services for crippled children, child-welfare services, vocational rehabilitation, and all other matters included in the Federal social security act approved August 14, 1935, or as the same may be amended, excepting such as are required to be administered by the department of education or the state board for vocational education and excepting such funds administered and disbursed in connection with public health services such as communicable disease control, maternal and child health, sanitation and vital statistics services. He shall make such reports and render such accounting as may be required by the Federal officer, board or bureau having authority in the premises.

Director to
administer
and disburse
all funds.

SEC. 13. This act is necessary for the immediate support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect April 1, 1937,

Effective
April 1, 1937.

on which date all powers heretofore exercised and duties heretofore performed by the department of public welfare, through and by means of its various divisions, shall devolve upon the department of social security and the divisions thereof created by this act. The department of public welfare, together with all divisions thereof, is hereby abolished, but such abolishment shall not in any way affect the powers conferred or duties required by the statutes whereby such department and divisions were created; nor shall such abolishment affect the validity of any act performed before April 1, 1937. The incumbents of the department and divisions abolished by this act may continue to hold office and perform any act required of them by law until such time after April 1, 1937, as the department of social security and its respective divisions are organized and the officers thereof are duly appointed and qualified.

Department of public welfare and its divisions abolished.

Transfer of books, etc., to department of social security.

SEC. 14. Upon the organization of the department and divisions created by this act, and the appointment and qualification of officers thereof, all funds, books, papers, documents, records, data, files, and all other equipment and property belonging to the department and divisions abolished by this act, together with pending business pertaining thereto, shall be delivered and surrendered to the department of social security and the appropriate division thereof. If any question shall arise as to the proper disposition of such property or business, the matter shall be referred to the governor for determination.

Conflicting acts repealed.

SEC. 15. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Passed the Senate March 1, 1937.

Passed the House March 8, 1937.

Approved by the Governor March 13, 1937.