

CHAPTER 139.

[S. B. 184.]

COUNTY OR COUNTY AND CITY JOINT HOSPITALS.

AN ACT relating to and regulating the maintenance and operation of hospitals for the care of persons suffering from disease, illness or infirmity, by counties and counties and cities jointly; and declaring that this act shall take effect immediately.

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

SECTION 1. Whenever any county or any county and city jointly, or two or more counties jointly shall have heretofore or shall hereafter establish a hospital or similar institution of two hundred, or more, beds, for the care of the sick, injured or infirm, under the provisions of chapter 174 of the Laws of the Extraordinary Session of 1925, and such hospital is, or shall hereafter be completed and ready for operation or shall have been already in operation, the board of county commissioners of the county in which such hospital or institution is located shall appoint as trustees for such hospital or institution six secular persons, two to be from each county commissioner district, and to be the persons nominated by the county commissioner elected from the respective districts. Said six trustees, together with the additional trustees, if any, and the general superintendent, hereinafter provided for, shall constitute a board of trustees for such hospital and institution with such powers and duties as are hereafter set forth. The members of the board of trustees first appointed shall be appointed for the respective terms of one, two, three, four, five and six years from and after the fifteenth day of January following their appointment, and until their successors are appointed and qualified; and thereafter their respective successors shall be appointed for

Hospital
established.

County com-
missioners
to appoint
trustees.

Terms of
office of
trustees.

Established
by two or
more coun-
ties.

Trustees.

Term of
office.

terms of six years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. If the board of county commissioners is unable to determine by unanimous vote the respective terms of the first appointees, such terms shall be determined by lot. In case two or more counties have established or shall hereafter establish any such hospital jointly, the six members of the board of trustees shall be chosen as above provided from the county in which the hospital or institution is located; and each board of county commissioners of the other county or counties which contributed to the establishment of the hospital or institution shall appoint two additional members of the board of trustees. The regular term of each of the two additional members shall be six years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Such additional members shall be residents of the respective counties from which they are appointed and shall otherwise possess the same qualifications as other trustees. The first term of office of the first appointees of any such additional members shall be fixed by the board of county commissioners of the county in which said hospital or institution is located, but shall not be for more than six years.

Trustee,
qualifica-
tions.

SEC. 2. No person shall be eligible for appointment as a trustee unless he is at least thirty-five years of age and shall have been a resident of the county commissioner district from which he is named and appointed, or of the county, if he is appointed as an additional trustee, for a period of at least two years immediately prior to such appointment. No trustee shall be actively engaged in the healing or nursing arts; and no person, except as *ex-officio* member, shall be eligible for appointment as a trustee who is a clergyman of any denomination or who holds or has held any office with pay during the period of two years immediately prior to such appointment in any office, department, or

branch of the county, township, city or town governments of the county from which such appointment is to be made.

SEC. 3. Any vacancy in the board of trustees, except that of an *ex-officio* member, shall be filled by appointment by the board making the original appointment, and such appointee shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the trustee in whose stead he is appointed. The board of county commissioners appointing a member of the board of trustees may by unanimous vote remove any trustee for misconduct or neglect of duty, but no such removal shall be made unless the board shall serve written notice upon the trustee, setting forth specifically the charges of misconduct or neglect of duty and fixing a time and place for hearing thereon at which the trustee charged shall be given full opportunity to be present, meet the charges and be heard in his own defense against the charges.

Vacancies
in board of
trustees.

Removal of
trustees.

SEC. 4. The first members of the board of trustees of such hospital or institution shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners within thirty days after this act takes effect in any county having such a hospital or institution, and thereafter within thirty days after such hospital or institution shall have been completed and be ready for operation. Within ten days after the appointment of the first members of the board of trustees, the appointees shall qualify by taking the usual oath of office required of county officers and shall meet and organize. The board of trustees shall elect from among the board membership a president and vice-president. The board of trustees shall meet upon the call of the president, or upon call signed by three members of the board and served upon all members. The call shall fix the time, place and purpose of the meeting. Any meeting may be adjourned from time

First trustees
appointed
within 30
days.

President,
vice-presi-
dent.

Meetings
of board.

Quorum. to time. A majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Compensation of trustees. SEC. 5. No trustees, except the *ex-officio* member, shall receive any compensation or emolument whatever for services as trustee; nor shall any trustee have or acquire any personal interest in any lease or contract whatsoever, made by said county or board of trustees with respect to such hospital or institution.

Contracts.

Funds. SEC. 6. All funds received from the operation of such hospital or institution shall be paid into the county treasury of the county in which the same is located, but the board of trustees may provide for the payment into the city or county treasury of any city or other county which has contributed to the establishment of such hospital or institution of such portion of such funds as shall be just and equitable. All expenditures made for and on behalf of such hospital or institution shall be made from the county treasury of the county in which the hospital or institution is located, but such portion of such expenditures as the board shall determine to be just and equitable shall be paid from the county treasury or the city treasury of any other county or city which has contributed to the establishment of such hospital or institution.

Disposal.

Expenditures.

Warrants. Warrants for such expenditures shall be drawn by the county or city auditor or comptroller, as required by the board, upon vouchers approved by the board, or the secretary of the board under such regulations as the board may prescribe, and shall be paid from the treasury upon which the same are drawn.

Powers of board. SEC. 7. The board of trustees shall:

General supervision. (1) Have general supervision and care of such hospitals and institutions and the buildings and grounds thereof and power to do all and everything necessary to the proper maintenance thereof within the limits of the appropriations authorized.

(2) Employ and fix the salary of a general superintendent, who shall furnish a bond in such amount as may be fixed by the board and which shall be subject to approval of the board. The general superintendent shall become an *ex-officio* member and secretary of the board of trustees, and shall devote his entire time exclusively to the management of the hospital and institution and shall not engage in any other business or profession of any nature whatsoever, and shall not be qualified for appointment unless he shall have had not less than five (5) years of experience as superintendent of a general hospital. The general superintendent may be removed for misfeasance or malfeasance in the following manner: Written notice setting forth the specific acts constituting the charges shall be served upon the general superintendent, and the notice shall fix a time and place for hearing on the charges. At such hearing the general superintendent shall be given an opportunity to be present and meet the charges and be heard in his defense against the charges. The charges shall be heard before a tribunal consisting of the chairman of the board of county commissioners, the prosecuting attorney and the county auditor of the county in which the hospital or institution is situated.

Employ
general
superintend-
ent.

Qualifica-
tions of gen-
eral superin-
tendent.

Removal.

Charges.

Hearing.

Trial.

(3) Prepare, in accordance with the provisions of the county budget law and file with the county auditor or if the hospital has been established by more than one county, with the county auditor of each county, and if a city has contributed to the establishment of the hospital, with the official of the city charged by law with the preparation of the city budget, a detailed and itemized estimate, both of probable revenues from sources other than taxation and of all expenditures required from such county, or counties and city, as the case may be, by such hospital or institution for the ensuing fiscal year.

Budget.

Annual report.

(4) File during the first week in January of each year with the county commissioners of each county and the city council or governing body of any city contributing to the establishment of such hospital, a report covering the proceedings of the board with reference to such hospital, and a statement of all receipts and expenditures during the preceding calendar year.

Gifts.

(5) Have the power to accept property by gift, devise, bequest or otherwise for the use of such hospital or institution.

SEC. 8. The board of trustees may:

By-laws.

(1) Adopt by-laws and rules for its own guidance and for the government of the hospital or institution.

Nurses' school.

(2) Establish and maintain in connection with said hospital or institution a training school for nurses.

Isolation building.

(3) Establish as a department in connection with such hospital or institution a suitable building for the isolation and detention of persons afflicted with contagious diseases subject to quarantine.

Non-residents.

(4) Determine whether or not, and if so upon what terms, it will extend the privilege of the hospital or institution to non-residents of the county or counties establishing the same.

Tuberculosis.

(5) Operate said hospital or institution as a general hospital and provide as a department thereof suitable accommodations and means for the care of persons afflicted with tuberculosis.

Rules.

(6) Formulate rules and regulations for the government of tuberculosis patients and for the protection of other patients, nurses, and attendants from infection.

General superintendent, duties.

SEC. 9. The general superintendent shall be the chief executive officer of such hospital or institution and shall perform every and all administrative

services necessary to the efficient and economical conduct of such hospital or institution and the admission to and proper care of persons properly entitled to the services thereof as provided by law or by the rules and regulations of the board of trustees.

SEC. 10. Any hospital or institution maintained and operated under the provision of this act shall be subject to inspection by a duly authorized representative of the state department of health and any member of the board of county commissioners of the county or counties and governing officials of the cities by which the hospital has been established. Inspection.

SEC. 11. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, and support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately. Effective immediately.

Passed the Senate February 23, 1931.

Passed the House March 10, 1931.

Approved by the Governor March 23, 1931.