

SEC. 2. All parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. Repeals conflicting laws.

SEC. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and shall take effect immediately. Effective immediately.

Passed the House March 3, 1933.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1933.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1933.

CHAPTER 102.

[S. B. 28.]

PROVIDING FUNDS FOR INDIGENT BLIND.

AN ACT relating to indigent blind persons, providing funds for such purpose, and providing penalties.

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

SECTION 1. A blind person is defined to be one whose sight is so defective as to render such person unable to perform the ordinary duties or tasks for which eyesight is essential. Blind person defined.

SEC. 2. Any such blind person who is without means of support, having no relatives whose legal duty it is to provide such support and maintenance and who by reason of such blindness is unable to earn a livelihood, shall be deemed an indigent blind person within the meaning of this act. Indigent blind defined.

SEC. 3. Any such indigent blind person over the age of eighteen of good moral character who has been a bona fide resident of the State of Washington for four consecutive years next preceding the date of application for the aid herein provided or who has become blind while a resident of the state and has been a continuous resident of the state since such loss of sight, shall be entitled to the relief here- Eligibility.

Publicly
soliciting
alms.

in provided: *Provided, however,* That no one shall be entitled to such relief while publicly soliciting alms. The term "publicly soliciting alms" shall be construed to mean exhibiting any sign or token calling attention to such blindness for the purpose of obtaining aid, or begging from house to house, or on any public highway or in public place: *Provided, further,* That wards of the United States government shall not be entitled to such relief: *Provided, further,* That no inmate in any state charitable institution shall thereby establish his residence for the purpose of this act in the county in which said institution is located.

Wards of
U. S. Govt.

Inmate of
state
institutions.

Application
for relief.

SEC. 4. Any person seeking relief under the provisions of this act shall file an application therefor with the board of county commissioners of the county wherein the applicant resides. Such claim shall be filed in a book provided for that purpose in the order in which claims are presented, which record shall be open to public inspection. No hearing shall be had on such application within ten days from the date of filing. No order for such relief shall be granted until the certificate of a registered physician or oculist shall have been presented to such board of county commissioners stating the extent of such blindness and his opinion as to its curability by proper treatment or surgery. Before such relief shall be granted it shall also appear from the evidence of at least two (2) reputable residents of the county that such applicant is an indigent blind person as herein defined and that he has no means of support and has resided in the county and state for the required time. Such evidence shall be reduced to writing and subscribed by such witnesses. If, upon such hearing, the board of county commissioners is not satisfied with the medical evidence produced, they shall have the right to employ another registered physician or oculist to make an

Physician's
certificate.

Evidence of
indigent
condition.

examination of the applicant's optic condition and make a written report to the board of county commissioners concerning same. The commissioners shall have the right to make an allowance to said physician or oculist employed by them not to exceed ten dollars (\$10.00), which shall be paid by warrant to be issued by the county auditor out of the current expense fund of said county.

SEC. 5. If the board of county commissioners shall be satisfied that the applicant is entitled to the relief prayed for, they shall issue an order therefor in such form as the board may provide, not to exceed four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per annum, to be paid quarterly from the fund herein provided. In case a blind husband and wife shall both be applicants for such relief, the total relief allowed shall not exceed six hundred dollars (\$600.00) per annum for such husband and wife and such persons shall not be entitled to any other charitable aid from the county.

Relief.

Single
person
\$400.Husband
and wife
\$600.

SEC. 6. At least once a year, or as often as the board of county commissioners deem necessary, they shall cause an examination to be made concerning the condition and requirements and the eligibility of such blind person to the relief herein provided, and may increase or decrease the allowance within the limits fixed in this act, or may discontinue such allowance entirely.

Periodic
examination.

SEC. 7. If, upon the examination of such applicant, or any subsequent examination, the board shall determine by satisfactory evidence of a registered physician or oculist that such indigent blind person may have his disability benefited or removed by proper surgical or medical treatment, such board of commissioners may, with the consent of the indigent blind person, expend for such purpose any portion of the amount ordered for the relief of such person and in such case the warrant for such sur-

Surgical or
medical
treatment.

gery or treatment shall be issued by the auditor direct to the person entitled to the compensation for such surgical or medical treatment, instead of being paid quarterly.

Blind relief
clerks.

SEC. 8. The board of county commissioners may, in their discretion, appoint such clerks or representatives from the staff regularly employed by the health department of the various counties of the state for the purpose of investigating the character, qualifications and disability and the requirements of such indigent blind person. Said clerks shall be designated blind relief clerks and shall serve for such time as the county commissioners prescribe and may be discharged at any time. Such clerks or representatives shall also be allowed their actual and necessary expenses, but no such expenses shall be allowed unless a certified statement of the same, duly verified in the manner required for the allowance of other county claims, shall have been filed, such expense allowance to be paid from the current expense fund of the county.

Tax levy.

SEC. 9. In addition to the other tax levies by such county, the board of county commissioners shall also levy a tax not exceeding one-fifth of one mill on each one dollar of assessed value of the property of the county, to be levied and collected in the same manner provided for the assessment and collection of other taxes for the purpose of creating a fund for the relief of indigent blind in the respective counties.

False
statement.

SEC. 10. Whoever, to procure for himself or another, any benefit provided in this chapter, makes any false statement, shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

Passed the Senate February 1, 1933.

Passed the House March 1, 1933.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1933.