

CHAPTER 106.

[S. B. 242.]

PENSIONS FOR BLIND PERSONS.

AN ACT pensioning blind persons; providing funds for such purpose and providing penalties; and amending sections 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 of chapter 102 of Session Laws of 1933, and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. That section 2 of chapter 102 of Laws of 1933 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows: Amends § 2, ch. 102, Laws of 1933.

Section 2. Any blind person or persons entitled to a pension under this act shall be construed to mean a person who, by reason of the loss or impairment of eyesight, is of such condition that he cannot support himself and [or] herself, and in no event shall such blind person be held ineligible to receive such pension whose earnings is [are] three hundred dollars (\$300) or less per year. Blind; requirements of.

SEC. 2. That section 3 of chapter 102, Laws of 1933 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows: Amends § 3, ch. 102, Laws of 1933.

Section 3. Any such 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, and one year's residence in the county, 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 herein 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 Qualifications for relief.

Exemptions.

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.

Amend § 4,
ch. 102,
Laws of
1933.

SEC. 3. That section 4 of chapter 102, Laws of 1933 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Application
for relief.

Section 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

Examination.

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 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,

Evidence
regarding
support.

Employment
of medical
practitioner.

they shall have the right to employ another registered physician or oculist to make an 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.

Compensation for services.

SEC. 4. That section 5 of chapter 102, Laws of 1933 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Amends § 5, ch. 102, Laws of 1933.

Section 5. If the board of county commissioners shall be satisfied that the applicant is entitled to the pension prayed for, they shall issue an order therefor in such form as the board may provide, not less than one hundred dollars (\$100) per quarter, to be paid monthly from the fund herein provided. If upon the death of the recipient of a blind pension, it shall appear to the satisfaction of the board of county commissioners that his estate is insufficient to pay his funeral expenses, the board shall have the power to order the payment of the installment of pension then accruing and such additional sum as may be necessary, not to exceed the total sum of one hundred dollars (\$100) to such person as the board may direct for the funeral expenses of the deceased pensioner.

Monthly payment.

Funeral Expenses.

SEC. 5. That section 7 of chapter 102, Laws of 1933 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Amends § 7, ch. 102, Laws of 1933.

Section 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 blind person may have his disability benefited or removed by proper surgical or medical treatment, such board of county commissioners may, with the consent of the blind person, expend for such purpose a reasonable sum from the general fund, monies not otherwise

Medical Treatment.

Payment for.

appropriated. Such blind person shall continue to receive his monthly pension until normal eyesight is actually restored to him.

Amends § 8,
ch. 102,
Laws of
1933.

SEC. 6. That section 8 of chapter 102, Laws of 1933 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Blind
pension
supervisors.

Section 8. The board of county commissioners shall select qualified blind pension supervisors for the purpose of investigating the character, qualifications and disability and the requirements of all persons applying for the pension under this act. Such supervisors shall 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.

Expenses.

Amends § 9,
ch. 102,
Laws of
1933.

SEC. 7. That section 9 of chapter 102, Laws of 1933 be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

Tax levy.

Section 9. In addition to the other tax levies by such county, the board of county commissioners shall also levy a tax of one-fifth of one mill on each 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 blind in the respective counties.

Purpose of.

Effective
Immediately.

SEC. 8. This act is necessary for the preservation of the public health and safety and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate February 26, 1935.

Passed the House March 13, 1935.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1935.