

ACTS AND RESOLVES
PASSED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF VERMONT
AT THE
TWENTY-FIFTH BIENNIAL SESSION
1919

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be its executive officer. Said board may, subject to the approval of the board of control, appoint such officers and assistants as may be necessary to carry out the duties of said board.

Approved March 7, 1919.

No. 174—AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 6195 OF THE GENERAL LAWS, RELATING TO SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF THE SECRETARY, OFFICERS AND ASSISTANTS OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

[H. 84]

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

SECTION 1. Section 6195 of the General Laws is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

Sec. 6195. *Salaries; how fixed.* The salaries of said secretary, officers and assistants shall be fixed by said board subject to the approval of the board of control, and they shall be allowed necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties. Said salaries and expenses shall be paid out of the moneys annually available for the purposes of this chapter.

Approved March 12, 1919.

No. 175—AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH TO APPOINT DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICERS IN PLACE OF TOWN HEALTH OFFICERS AND SPECIFYING THEIR DUTIES, AND TO REPEAL SECTIONS 6217 AND 6234 OF THE GENERAL LAWS RELATING THERETO.

[H. 260]

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

SECTION 1. *Sanitary districts; health officers; appointment; qualifications; duties.* The state board of health is hereby authorized to divide the state into sanitary districts, not exceeding ten in number, and to appoint and remove at its discretion for each such district, a health officer who shall be a reputable physician. Such district health officer shall hold

office until his successor is appointed and qualified and shall, at all times, be subject to the orders of the state board of health, and during his term of office shall not engage in the private practice of medicine. There may also be appointed in each district in cases of emergency and when deemed necessary by the state board of health, one or more assistant district health officers, who shall devote such time as is necessary to duties assigned to them.

Each district health officer shall perform the following duties:

1. Keep himself informed as to the sanitary and health conditions existing within his district.
2. Provide for the prompt and efficient quarantine of all cases of communicable diseases within his district.
3. Aid the physicians of his district in making diagnoses of communicable diseases, and endeavor to enlist the cooperation of all such physicians in the improvement of the public health.
4. Study the causes of excessive morbidity and mortality from any disease in any portion of his district.
5. Promote efficient registration of births and deaths.
6. Furnish information to the general public in all matters pertaining to the public health.
7. Make regular inspections of the sanitary conditions of all schoolhouses within his district and supervise the execution of the orders of the state board of health relating thereto.
8. Serve as health supervisor of all public, private and parochial schools within his district, under the regulations of the state board of health, provided however that a minor shall not be compelled to submit to medical examination or treatment for or on account of any noncontagious disease if his parent or guardian objects thereto.
9. Inspect public buildings and cause such buildings to conform to the regulations of the state board of health.
10. Make inspections of sewer connections and plumbing and issue orders, in writing, for the performance of such work as is necessary to comply with the laws and regulations relating thereto.
11. Make general sanitary inspections within his district whenever and wherever he has reason to suspect that anything exists which may be detrimental to the public health.
12. Issue orders, in writing, for the destruction and removal, within a specified time, of nuisances, sources of filth and causes of sickness.
13. Inspect all slaughterhouses within his district and cause them to conform to the rules and regulations of the state board of health relating thereto.

14. Perform such other duties as shall, from time to time, be assigned to him by the state board of health.

SEC. 2. *Salaries; expenses.* The salaries of the district health officers shall be determined by the state board of health, subject to the approval of the board of control, and they shall be allowed necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties, such salaries and expenses to be paid by the auditor of accounts upon approval by the state board of health. When, in the opinion of the state board of health, it is necessary to call any district health officer for the purpose of attending meetings or conferences, within or without the state, he shall be allowed his necessary expenses while away from home.

SEC. 3. *District health officer; powers; orders.* A district health officer may exercise all the powers of local boards of health within his own district, and his orders shall have the same force as the orders of the state or local boards of health. Failure to comply with the orders of the district health officer shall be construed as a failure to comply with the orders of the state board of health and shall be subject to the same penalties as prescribed by law therefor.

SEC. 4. *Assistants; compensation; expenses.* Assistant district health officers shall be subject to call for such special services as are deemed necessary by the state board of health and for such services shall receive such fees as may be allowed by the board of control, and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties, such fees and expenses to be paid by the auditor of accounts, upon approval by the state board of health, as provided in section two of this act.

SEC. 5. *Local health officers.* Cities and towns of five thousand population or more may secure the services of a local health officer for such city or town by providing for the payment of the salary and expenses of such officer. When such provision is made, the state board of health shall appoint a health officer for such city or town, who shall be subject to the same provisions and perform the same duties within his city or town as are specified for the district health officers.

SEC. 6. *Death certificates; burial permits.* The town clerk of each town shall receive all certificates of deaths occurring within his own town, and shall issue burial permits and receive fees therefor as provided by sections 3801, 3808, 3811, 3812, 3813, 3814, 3818, 3819 and 3820 of the General Laws, provided that burial permits in cases of deaths from communicable diseases shall not be issued by a town clerk except in accordance with instructions to be issued by the district health officer or the state board of health and to be kept on file by the town clerk.

SEC. 7. *Quarantine; penalty.* For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, all physicians of the state shall be furnished by the state board of health with suitable cards for quarantining houses where cases of communicable disease exist, and shall be required to quarantine such houses as soon as the diagnosis is made or suspected and shall immediately report the case by mail to the district health officer. If he considers it necessary, he may also make such report by telephone or telegraph. A physician failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars nor less than twenty-five dollars.

SEC. 8. *Continuation of local health officers.* Wherever the words "health officer" or "local health officer" occur in the General Laws relating to the powers and duties of such officers, they shall be construed to mean or refer to the district health officer, except as provided in sections five and six of this act. The office of local health officer in the towns of any district shall not be vacated nor their fees invalidated until the district health officer of such district shall have been appointed and shall have qualified.

SEC. 9. *Appropriation.* The sum of thirty-five thousand dollars is hereby annually appropriated for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this act.

SEC. 10. *Repeal.* Sections 6217 and 6234 of the General Laws are hereby repealed.

SEC. 11. This act shall take effect July first, nineteen hundred and nineteen.

Approved March 26, 1919.

No. 176.—AN ACT RELATING TO THE MEDICAL TREATMENT OF INMATES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS AFFLICTED WITH COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

[H. 319]

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

SECTION 1. *Hospital wards.* The director of state institutions may, with the approval of the board of control, designate or construct a ward or hospital room at any state institution for the purpose of giving necessary treatment and care to inmates of such institutions.

SEC. 2. *Communicable diseases; care of persons.* In case an inmate of a state institution at the expiration of his lawful term of confinement therein, has or is afflicted with