

meaning and enforcement of the Pure Seeds Act, Chapter 387, Session Laws of 1927 and subsequently amended, but shall be in addition thereto.

Approved April 26, 1941.

CHAPTER 473—S. F. No. 832

An act authorizing county boards to provide for hospitalization for the indigents of such counties; amending Mason's Supplement 1940, Sections 3164-19, 3164-20 and 3164-21.

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

Section 1. **Law amended.**—Mason's Supplement 1940, Section 3164-19, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"3164-19. County board to provide hospitalization for indigent persons.—The county board of any county in this state is hereby authorized to provide for the hospitalization in hospitals within the county or elsewhere within the state, of indigent residents of such county who are afflicted with a malady, *injury*, deformity, or ailment of a nature which can probably be remedied by hospitalization and who are unable, financially, to secure and pay for such hospitalization or, in the case of a minor, whose parent, guardian, trustee or other person having lawful custody of his person, as the case may be, is unable to secure or provide such hospitalization.

Sec. 2. **Law amended.**—Mason's Supplement 1940, Section 3164-20, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"3164-20. Application to be filed.—*Subdivision 1.* Whenever the existence of a case described in section 1 of this act shall come to the notice of the sheriff, town clerk, health officer, public health nurse, peace officer, public official, or physician or surgeon it shall be his duty to, and any other person may, file with the county auditor of the county of the legal residence of such indigent person requiring care an application for the hospitalization of such indigent person. Such application shall be made in such form as the county board of such county may prescribe, and shall contain the name, age, residence, and physical condition of the person sought to be hospitalized and shall contain also a full statement of his financial situation and of the persons, if any, legally charged

with his care and support, and such application shall be verified. The county board shall make a careful investigation of the matter in such manner as it shall deem advisable and expedient, and it shall be the duty of any public official of any county, city, village, or town of the *residence* of the person sought to be hospitalized to supply the county board on a request therefor all the information within his knowledge relative to the financial condition of the person sought to be hospitalized and of all persons, if any there be, who are legally liable for the support of such person. If after such investigation the county board shall be satisfied that the person on whose behalf the application is made is not financially able to provide himself with such hospitalization or in case of a minor, his parents, guardians, trustee, or other person having legal custody over him or legally responsible for his support and maintenance is not financially able to provide such hospitalization, then said county board shall direct the county physician or some other physician, to make an examination of the person on whose behalf such application was made. Such physician shall make and file with the county board a verified report in writing setting forth the nature and history of the case and such other information as will likely aid in the medical and surgical treatment of the disease, malady, *injury*, deformity, or ailment affecting such person, and shall state in such report his opinion whether or not the condition of such person can probably be remedied at a hospital. Such report shall be made in duplicate, one copy of which shall be filed with the county auditor and the other shall be transmitted to the hospital at which such afflicted person is hospitalized; such report shall also give any information the examining physician shall have or acquire relative to the financial ability of the afflicted person to pay for the hospitalization and treatment of his disease, malady, *injury*, deformity, or ailment, together with any other information such physician may deem helpful to the county board or the physician attending him.

Subdivision 2. If upon filing of such report and a full investigation of the application the county board shall be satisfied that the case is one which could be remedied by hospital treatment and that such afflicted person is financially unable to secure or provide the same for himself, and that the persons legally charged with the support and maintenance of such person, if any there be, are financially unable to provide such hospitalization, the county board may grant or approve said application. If the county board is not so satisfied, it may take additional testimony or make such further investigation as it shall deem proper and shall reject any

application if it finds that the facts do not merit the expenditure of public money for the relief of such afflicted person. Upon the approving and granting such application and the relief therein prayed for the chairman of such county board shall arrange for the hospitalization of such afflicted person. If the county board shall find that the applicant or the person legally responsible for his support and maintenance is not able to pay in full but is able to pay in part for such hospitalization at such hospital the county board may approve such application of such afflicted person on such terms of division of hospital charges and costs as it may deem equitable and just. The county board shall provide for taking such afflicted person to the hospital. Provided, however, that when a physician certifies that an emergency exists in any case, and that he believes that the person suffering is unable to pay for hospitalization, such person shall be admitted to any such hospital upon the order of the chairman of the county board or upon the order of the county commissioner of the district in which such alleged indigent person resides; and thereafter an investigation shall be made in the manner hereinbefore provided. *Provided further, that when a physician certifies in a case of an injury (or an emergency) that immediate surgical or medical treatment is necessary, the patient shall forthwith be admitted to any such hospital upon said certificate for a period not to exceed seventy-two (72) hours; and thereafter an investigation shall be certified and made in the manner hereinbefore provided.*

Sec. 3. Law amended.—Mason's Supplement 1940, Section 3164-21, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"3164-21. **Costs.**—The cost of hospitalization of such indigent persons exclusive of medical and surgical care and treatment shall not exceed in amount the full rates fixed and charged by the Minnesota general hospital under the provisions of *Mason's Minnesota Statutes of 1927, Sections 4577 to 4586, inclusive*, for the hospitalization of such indigent patients. The cost of the hospitalization of indigent persons under the provisions of this act shall be paid by the county of the legal residence of such indigent persons at such times as may be provided for in such contract; *and in case of an injury or emergency requiring immediate surgical or medical treatment, for a period not to exceed 72 hours, the cost shall be paid by the county from which such patient, if indigent, is certified.*"

Approved April 26, 1941.