

CHAPTER 400—S. F. No. 1121

[Coded]

An act authorizing the creation of hospital districts by certain counties, the construction, equipment and operation of district hospitals therein, and the issuance of bonds therefor.

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

[397.11] Section 1. **Application to certain counties.** This act shall apply to any county in which the capacity of all public and private general hospitals licensed by the State Department of Health be more than 55 beds and less than 70 beds, exclusive of beds in state and educational institutions, according to standards established in the "Minnesota Plan for Hospitals and Public Health Centers For 1954-55", and as published in the "Minnesota Directory of Licensed Hospitals and Related Institutions, June 1, 1954", published by said department in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.56, including beds housed in non-fire resistive quarters but otherwise conforming to acceptable standards.

[397.12] Sec. 2. **Hospital districts.** The board of county commissioners of any such county may, when requested so to do by resolution of the governing body of each of two or more cities, towns and villages within the county, by resolution create a hospital district comprising the entire area of such cities, villages and towns, provided that the most recent assessed valuation of all taxable property within such area is not less than \$1,000,000 and no non-contiguous areas are included therein.

[397.13] Sec. 3. **District hospitals.** The board of county commissioners may also authorize and direct the construction and equipment of a district hospital in any such district, to be operated under the supervision of a district hospital board comprising not less than six nor more than nine members appointed at large for two year terms by the county board. Such members shall be resident freeholders of hospital district wherein such hospital is located and shall serve without compensation. The expense of operation of any such hospital shall be paid from the revenues derived therefrom and, to the extent necessary, from ad valorem taxes to be levied solely upon the taxable property situated within the district. All revenues so received and taxes so levied shall be segregated in a special fund by the county treasurer and disbursed only upon orders signed by the chairman of the hospital board and countersigned by the county auditor, pursuant to resolu-

tions of said hospital board. All contracts with reference to the construction, equipment and operation of such hospital shall be approved by the county board and executed in the same manner as other county contracts, and the county board shall at least annually examine and approve or take any necessary remedial action with reference to the receipts and disbursements shown by the books and records of each district hospital, and levy such tax in accordance with this section as may be necessary for the operation thereof in the succeeding year.

[397.14] Sec. 4. **Bonds.** The construction and equipment and the subsequent improvement of any such hospital may be financed in whole or in part by the issuance of general obligation bonds in the manner provided in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475. Proceedings for the issuance thereof shall be instituted and completed by the board of county commissioners. Notice of the election on such bonds shall be published in each legal newspaper published in the district, not less than ten days before the election, and all but only the qualified electors residing in the district shall be entitled to vote at such election, each at the polling place for the voting precinct in which he resides, as established for state and county elections. Taxes for the payment of such bonds shall be levied by the county board on all taxable property within the hospital district, and shall not be subject to any statutory limitations as to rate or amount. Such bonds shall not constitute indebtedness for any purpose of the county or any city, village or town, and shall be payable solely from taxes levied on properties within the hospital district, and the liability of the county thereon shall be limited to the completion of all proceedings required for the levy of such taxes and the creation and maintenance of a sinking fund and the payment of the bonds and interest from such fund in accordance with existing law.

[397.15] Sec. 5. **Political subdivisions.** A hospital district created under this act is a political subdivision within the meaning of Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59.

Approved April 11, 1955.

CHAPTER 401—S. F. No. 1162

An act relating to municipal courts; amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 488.21.