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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

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CHAPTER 16.

RELIEF AND SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

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SEC. 1. The several boards of county commissioners of the several counties of this territory, shall be, and they are hereby vested with entire and exclusive superintendence of the poor in their respective counties.

County commissioners to have superintendence of the poor.

SEC. 2. Every poor person who shall be unable to earn a livelihood in consequence of bodily infirmity, idiocy, lunacy, or other cause shall be supported by the father; grand father, mother, grand mother, children, grand children, brothers or sisters of such poor person, if they or either of them be of sufficient ability, and every person who shall fail or refuse to support his or her father, grand father, mother, grand mother, child or grand child, sister or brother when directed by the board of commissioners of the county, where such poor person shall be found, whether such relative reside in the county or not, shall forfeit and pay to the county commissioners for the use of the poor of their county, the sum of fifteen dollars per month, to be recovered in the name of the county commissioners, for the use of the poor as aforesaid, before any justice of the peace or any court having jurisdiction; *Provided*, That when any person becomes a pauper from intemperance or other bad conduct, he shall not be entitled to any support from any relation except parent or child.

When suit may be commenced against relatives.

SEC. 3. The children shall be first called on to support their parents, if there be children of sufficient ability; if there be none of sufficient ability, the parents of such poor persons shall be next called on, and if there be no parents or children of sufficient ability, the brothers and sisters shall be next called on; and if there be no brothers and sisters, the grand children of such poor persons shall be called on, and then on the grand parents; but married females whilst their husbands live shall not be liable to a suit.

Order in which relatives shall support poor persons.

SEC. 4. When any such poor person shall not have any such relatives, in any county in this territory, as are named in the preceding sections, or such relatives shall not be of sufficient ability, or shall fail or refuse to maintain such pauper, then the said pauper shall receive such relief as the case may require out of the county treasury, and the county commissioners may either make contract for the necessary maintenance of the poor, or appoint such agents as they may deem necessary to oversee and provide for the same.

Poor to be supported from the county treasury.

SEC. 5. When any minor shall become or be likely to become chargeable to the county, either because of being an orphan or because the parents or other relatives as aforesaid are unable or refuse to sup-

Commissioners may bind out minors in certain cases.

port such minor, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to bind such minor as an apprentice to some respectable householder of the county, by written indenture, which shall bind such minor to serve as an apprentice, and shall in all respects be to the tenor and effect as required in the chapter concerning apprentices.

SEC. 6. When any non-resident or any other person, not coming within the definition of a pauper, shall fall sick in any county of this territory, not having money or property to pay for his board, nursing and medical aid, it shall be the duty of the commissioners of the proper county, on complaint being made, to give or order to be given such assistance to such poor person as they may deem just and necessary; and if said sick person shall die, then the said commissioners shall give or order to be given to such person a decent burial, and the said commissioners shall make such allowance for board, nursing, medical aid or burial expenses, as they shall deem just and equitable, and order the same to be paid out of the county treasury.

SEC. 7. When application is made by any pauper to the board of commissioners of any county in this territory for relief, it shall be necessary for said commissioners to require of said pauper satisfactory evidence that he has been a resident of said county for twelve months immediately preceding the day upon which such application is made.

SEC. 8. When, on application made by any pauper to the board of commissioners as aforesaid, it shall appear to the satisfaction of said board, that the person so applying for relief has resided in said county agreeably to the provisions of the foregoing section of this chapter, he shall be entitled to all the relief provided by this chapter; but if on the contrary, it shall appear to the satisfaction of said board, that said pauper has not been a resident of said county agreeably to the provisions of the seventh section of this chapter, they shall proceed to remove from their county, at the expense of said county, such pauper to the county where said pauper may have his residence, or may if they think best, issue a notice directed to some constable of the county, which notice said constable shall serve forthwith on said pauper, requiring him to depart said county, forthwith, and after so serving said notice, by reading the same to said pauper, said constable shall within five days thereafter, return the same to the said clerk of the board of commissioners issuing the same, noting the time and manner of serving the same thereon.

SEC. 9. After service of such notice as aforesaid, no pauper shall be entitled to relief from such county, any law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 10. The board of county commissioners of any county in this territory, may if they think proper, cause to be built or provided in their respective counties, work-houses for the accommodation and employment of such paupers as may from time to time become a county charge; and said work-house and paupers shall be under such rules and regulations as said board of commissioners may deem proper and just.

SEC. 11. If any person shall bring and leave any pauper in any county in this territory, wherein such pauper is not lawfully settled, knowing him to be a pauper, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars for every such offence, to be sued for and recovered by and to the use of such county, in a civil action, before any court having jurisdiction of the same.

Person, not a pauper, falling sick, to be supported in certain cases.

Twelve months' residence required to entitle pauper to support.

Poor person, who has not resided one year in the county, may be removed from the county.

Pauper when not entitled to support.

Commissioners may build work-houses for paupers.

Penalty for removing pauper into county.