

## CHAPTER 376

## HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES

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**376.009 COUNTY HOSPITAL.**

For the purposes of sections 376.01 to 376.06, "county hospital" means any hospital owned or operated by a county which may consist of any number of buildings at one location or any number of buildings at different locations within the county.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.01 ACQUISITION OF LAND.**

A county board may acquire land in the county for hospital purposes for patients, other than the mentally ill.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.02 BUILDINGS.**

A county board may purchase or construct suitable buildings for hospital purposes for patients, other than the mentally ill, on any land acquired under section 376.01, and may improve, equip, and maintain these buildings for hospital purposes. The county board may pay for these buildings out of any fund in the county treasury not otherwise appropriated or issue warrants or bonds of the county for payment. The county board may fix the time and terms of payment of these warrants or bonds and the amount of interest to be paid.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.03 QUESTION SUBMITTED TO VOTERS.**

If a majority of the electors of any county voting upon the proposition at any election at which the question of purchasing and constructing hospital buildings under section 376.02 is submitted vote in favor of the proposition, the county board shall purchase, and construct these buildings and make the improvements necessary to fit the buildings for hospital purposes.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.04 ELECTION, SEPARATE BALLOT.**

The question of purchasing and constructing hospital buildings shall be submitted to the voters of any county at a general election and placed upon a separate ballot. This election must be called by a resolution of the county board. The resolution must state the time of the election, that a county hospital is proposed to be established, the proposed location, and the cost, including equipment, for not more than the amount stated in the resolution. When the resolutions are passed, the

county auditor shall immediately notify each town or city clerk in the county that the question of constructing hospital buildings will be voted upon at the time stated in the resolution, in the manner provided under the state election laws.

The ballot must be in the following form:

"For the purchase and construction of hospital buildings, including equipment, to be located at ..... (state location), at a cost not more than ..... (state amount), pursuant to the resolution of the board of county commissioners passed ..... (state date).

Yes .....

No ....."

Each of the last two words, "yes" and "no," shall be followed by a square in which the voter may indicate by a mark (X) either a negative or affirmative vote. These votes shall be cast in the same manner as votes cast at the general election and counted by the same officers. Returns must be made to the county auditor, and canvassed in the same manner as the returns on county officers.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

### **376.05 HOSPITAL AUTHORIZED, CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS.**

If a majority of the electors voting upon the proposition vote in favor of purchasing and constructing the hospital buildings, the county board shall immediately purchase, construct, and equip the buildings.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

### **376.06 SUPERINTENDENT, HOSPITAL BOARD; DUTIES.**

Subdivision 1. A county board which has purchased and constructed buildings for hospital purposes may operate these buildings as a hospital and may appoint a superintendent. The board shall set the superintendent's salary, term of employment, and powers and duties; provide for the management and operation of the hospital; and operate, control, and manage the hospital. The superintendent shall serve at the pleasure of the board. If the board determines that it is in the public interest, it may appoint a hospital board of at least three, but not more than nine members, who must be county residents and landowners, to serve without compensation unless the county board authorizes the payment of compensation and reimbursement of expenses for service on the hospital board. Notwithstanding section 375.44, if compensation and reimbursement are authorized, they shall be the same as authorized for service on the county welfare board. Subject to its supervision, the county board may commit the care, management, and operation of the hospital to the hospital board. The county board may provide for the organization and regulation of the hospital board, its duties and the duties of the members, and regulations for the management, operation, and control of the hospital. The county board may lease the hospital grounds and buildings to a hospital association for terms it considers advisable. Sections 376.01 to 376.06 do not permit any county board to purchase and construct any hospital buildings or to pay for them without first submitting the question to the vote of the people. No purchase or construction of buildings or payment may be made unless a majority of the electors voting upon the proposition vote in favor.

Subd. 2. A county commissioner may be appointed by the county board to any hospital board under sections 376.009 to 376.09 except for any hospital board operating a county hospital located in a city of the first class.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.07 ADDITION TO COUNTY HOSPITAL.**

When the county board of a county has been authorized by the voters to construct an addition to the county hospital of the county under sections 376.01 to 376.06, whether or not also authorized to equip the addition, and the board has determined that the addition, whether with or without equipment, cannot be completed within the cost authorized, or has determined that, to complete the improvement, certain alterations should be made, or fixtures or equipment added, either in the original building, or in the addition, or both, the board may be authorized to spend a specified additional amount for any of the purposes mentioned in this chapter, either by vote of the people of the county at a general or special election or by petition. If an election is held, the proposition shall be submitted and disposed of in the same manner as provided by sections 376.01 to 376.06. If by petition, the petition must be signed by a majority of those voting at the last preceding general election. The petition may be in the form of one document or of several documents in the same form, and shall be filed with the county auditor. A special election may be called in the manner provided for calling special county elections. When authority is granted by the voters, in either manner provided, the board may proceed accordingly. If the board made or attempted to make a contract or contracts for more than the authority first granted, it may ratify and carry out the contracts.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.08 COUNTIES, APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES.**

The board of county commissioners in any county with a population of 50,000 or less may appropriate up to \$65,000 annually from the general revenue fund of the county for the acquisition of lands for hospital purposes, and the construction, improvement, alterations, equipment and maintenance of hospitals within the county. The board may also appropriate up to \$25,000 from the general revenue fund of the county for the acquisition of land and construction of municipally owned nursing homes within the county.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.09 AID TO HOSPITALS IN COUNTIES HAVING NO COUNTY HOSPITAL.**

In any county in which there is no county hospital, the county board may appropriate and pay money from the general fund of the county, for the construction and maintenance of a hospital in the county for the treatment of sick, diseased, and injured persons. Admission preference shall always be given to patients who are, in whole or in part, public charges, and are sent to the hospital by the county board.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.55 COUNTY NURSING HOME.**

**Subdivision 1. Authority.** (a) Any county, or any group of counties acting jointly may establish a county nursing home, in sections 376.55 to 376.60 also termed "nursing home," for the care and treatment of chronically ill or convalescent persons or persons who need nursing home care because old age or infirmity makes them unable to properly care for themselves, with the consent of a majority of the county board.

(b) Any county, or group of counties, which owns a nursing home, may establish and operate an attached or related facility for the purpose of providing supportive services to elderly persons who are not yet in need of nursing home care. Supportive services may include congregate housing, adult day care, and respite care services.

**Subd. 2. Establishment.** A county, or a group of counties acting jointly, may establish a nursing home and a facility for supportive services under sections 376.55 to 376.60, by converting suitable existing county owned buildings, by leasing suitable premises, or by acquiring a suitable site by gift, purchase, or condemnation proceedings instituted in the name of the county or counties and constructing suitable buildings which are equipped, maintained, enlarged or otherwise modified to be the same as a nursing home.

**Subd. 3. Financing.** The county board may transfer surplus funds from any fund except the road and bridge, sinking or drainage ditch funds for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, enlarging, or adding to a county nursing home. When surplus funds are not available for transfer, a county board may issue bonds to pay the cost of establishing, equipping, furnishing, enlarging, or adding to a county nursing home, subject to section 376.56.

**Subd. 4. Purchase of interest in existing home.** A county, or a group of counties, not maintaining a nursing home, may purchase an interest in an existing county nursing home if the county board or boards owning the nursing home decide by majority vote of each county board to admit the county. The county board or boards owning the home shall set the cost for admission to ownership, taking into consideration their investment in the home. Any county admitted under this provision shall have all the rights and privileges provided for in sections 376.55 to 376.60.

**Subd. 5. County defined.** Where in sections 376.55 to 376.57 and 376.58 to 376.60 the word "county" is used, it refers to a county acting singly, or as one of a group of counties acting jointly, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

**Subd. 6. Withdrawal of interest.** Any county board may withdraw its interest in a county nursing home if the county board or boards owning the nursing home decide by majority vote of each county board to allow the withdrawal. The county board or boards owning the home shall set the amount to be paid to the withdrawing county, taking into consideration their investment in the home.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

### **376.56 TAX LEVIES AND BONDS.**

**Subdivision 1.** The county board establishing or participating in establishing a nursing home under section 376.55 may annually levy a tax to pay all or its proportion of the net costs of maintenance and operation of the nursing home after taking into consideration payments received for care of residents. The board may levy an additional tax to repay the cost of acquiring, establishing, equipping, furnishing, enlarging, or adding to a county nursing home, and to pay the principal of and interest on general obligation bonds issued for that purpose.

**Subd. 2.** The proceeds of taxes for costs of maintenance and operation shall be paid into a county nursing home fund, which, in the case of counties operating jointly, shall be kept in the treasury of the county in which the nursing home is located and spent as provided in sections 376.55 to 376.66.

**Subd. 3.** Bonds issued under section 376.55, subdivision 3, may be general obligations of the county and may be issued and sold, and taxes levied for their payment as provided under chapter 475. No election shall be required to authorize

the bond issue for improving, remodeling, or replacing an existing nursing home without increasing the number of accommodations for residents. The revenues of the nursing home shall also be pledged for the payment of the bonds and for any interest and premium. Part of the proceeds may be deposited in the debt service fund for the issue, to capitalize interest and create a reserve to reduce or eliminate the tax otherwise required by section 475.61 to be levied before issuing the bonds. The remaining proceeds from the sale of the bonds and any surplus funds transferred under section 376.55, subdivision 3 must be credited to and deposited in the county nursing home building fund of the county in which the nursing home is located.

Subd. 4. The county treasurer of the county in which the nursing home is located shall make payments out of the county nursing home fund and county nursing home building fund on properly authenticated vouchers of the county nursing home administrative board, as provided in sections 376.58 and 376.59. The county treasurer of each county issuing general obligation bonds under subdivision 3 shall pay the bonds and interest from the county's debt service fund and be the custodian of net revenues transmitted by the administrative board for the payment of the bonds.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

### **376.57 DETERMINATION TO ESTABLISH.**

In establishing a jointly owned and operated county nursing home or facility for supportive services, each of the cooperating counties shall determine by a majority vote of the county board that it is in favor of the establishment of the home or of the facility, the place of its location, and the approximate amount to be spent for the establishment of the proposed nursing home or facility. Each county shall authorize the payment by that county of its proportionate share of the cost of the establishment. The proportion of costs of the establishment, and of costs of maintenance and operation of the nursing home or facility to be paid by each county shall be set by terms agreed upon by each of the participating counties.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

### **376.58 SUPERVISION.**

Subdivision 1. **Designation of county nursing home administrative board.** The county board of any county establishing a county nursing home and facility for supportive services may designate any board under the jurisdiction and control of the county board to supervise the nursing home and facility, and that board shall constitute the nursing home's administrative board for that county.

Subd. 2. **Nursing home administrative board; creation; compensation.** Whenever two or more counties, through their county boards, have agreed to maintain a county nursing home and facility for supportive services under section 376.55, the county commissioners of each county shall designate a board from each of the cooperating counties as the county nursing home administrative board. Immediately after their designation as the county nursing home administrative board, the boards of the cooperating counties shall hold a joint meeting and elect a chairman, vice chairman and secretary who shall be the executive committee. Each county shall have at least one representative on the executive committee, and where more than three counties participate in establishing a nursing home, the executive committee shall be expanded by one member for each additional county above three so that no county will have less than one member on the executive committee. The first joint meeting of the county boards that have been designated as the county nursing home administrative board shall be called by the chairman of the county

board of the county in which the county commissioners have agreed to locate the proposed home and facility. The board shall meet annually, and at other times considered necessary. Members of the county nursing home administrative board, and its executive committee, other than members of the county board, shall be paid for each day spent in transacting the business of the board or the committee. Each member, including members of the county board, may be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred by them in connection with their official duties. Compensation and reimbursement for expenses shall be paid from the county nursing home fund in a manner and amounts agreed upon by the county boards. This subdivision does not prohibit the payment of a per diem to county commissioners under section 375.055, subdivision 1.

**Subd. 3. Nursing home administrative board; powers, duties.** The county nursing home administrative board may establish, operate and maintain a county nursing home and facility for supportive services under sections 376.55 to 376.60. The county nursing home administrative board may delegate to the executive committee defined in subdivision 2 the authority to supervise the establishment, management and operation of the county nursing home and facility for supportive services, including the approval of expenditures and other business necessary for the efficient operation of the home within the general policies established by the county nursing home administrative board. The county nursing home administrative board may authorize payment of incidental expenses of the nursing home under section 375.16.

**Subd. 4. Expenditures, approval.** The county nursing home administrative board, or its executive committee, if delegated to do so, shall approve by a majority vote all expenditure vouchers, and the chairman of the board or committee shall then transmit them to the county auditor of the county in which the home and facility are located for payment.

**Subd. 5. Estimates of cost.** Preparation of estimates of costs for the operation of the nursing home and the facility for supportive services shall be submitted as required by the administrative board of the nursing home or as called for by the county board. The fiscal year for the nursing home, and the facility for supportive services if it is appropriate, may be the reporting year designated by the commissioner of human services.

**Subd. 6. Acceptance of gifts.** The county's nursing home administrative board may accept as a trust any gift, donation, or endowment from any source, whether subject to special provisions of the donor or not. The gifts, donations, or endowments shall be credited to the county nursing home fund in the treasury of the county in which the home and facility are located and the county nursing home administrative board shall disburse the principal or income as the donors may have indicated.

**Subd. 7. Resident funds; unclaimed money.** The administrator of a county nursing home shall have the care and custody of all money belonging to residents as allowed by law and shall keep accurate accounting records of all transactions concerning the money as required by the commissioner of health and the commissioner of human services.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

### **376.59 COUNTY BUILDING FUNDS.**

When the county nursing home administrative board is satisfied that each county in a cooperating group of counties has available its share of the cost of establishing the nursing home and facility for supportive services, it shall certify this

information to the county board of each cooperating county. The county board shall order the county treasurer of that county to pay the treasurer of the county in which the nursing home is to be located the county nursing home building funds in the possession of the county treasurer. The county nursing home administrative board shall then carry out the purposes of sections 376.55 to 376.60.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10

**376.60 ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE; POWERS, DUTIES.**

The county nursing home administrative board or its executive committee may:

- (1) hire an administrator and all necessary employees for the management and control of the nursing home and to prescribe their compensation and duties;
- (2) arrange for physicians' services and other medical care for the residents in the home;
- (3) purchase equipment, supplies and services necessary in the care and maintenance of the nursing home and the residents;
- (4) exercise the county powers authorized under section 376.55, subdivision 2;
- (5) institute condemnation proceedings in the name of the county or counties involved, conducted in the manner provided under chapter 117, in the case of other condemnation proceedings by counties; and
- (6) perform all other acts necessary to carry out the provisions of sections 376.55 to 376.60, except those with which the county board or boards are specifically charged, unless otherwise provided by law.

**History:** 1985 c 109 s 10