

CHAPTER 397

HOSPITAL DISTRICTS

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397.05 HOSPITAL DISTRICTS.

The board of county commissioners of any county, or two or more boards of county commissioners acting jointly, may, when requested so to do by resolutions of the governing bodies of two or more of the cities and towns within the county or counties, by resolution create a hospital district comprising the entire area of such cities and towns, provided that no city or town shall be included therein unless it is contiguous to one or more of the others; and provided further that each resolution hereafter adopted requesting the creation of such a district shall be published in the official newspaper of the city or town concerned, and if within ten days after such publication a petition shall be filed with the governing body, signed by qualified electors of the city or town, equal in number to ten percent of the number of such electors voting at the last preceding election of officers thereof, requesting a referendum on the resolution, the same shall not become effective until approved by a majority of such qualified electors voting hereon at a general or special election.

History: 1957 c 640 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7

397.06 DISTRICT HOSPITAL BOARDS.

The board or boards of county commissioners may also authorize and direct the construction and equipment of a district hospital in any such district, to be constructed, equipped and operated under the supervision of a district hospital board comprising one member from each city and town in the district elected by the voters at the respective regular local elections thereof for a term of three years or until a successor has been elected and has qualified, commencing on the first day of April next following the election. When the district is first created, the governing body of each such city and town shall appoint a member of the board to serve until the commencement of the term of a successor. Thereafter whenever a vacancy occurs, the governing body of the city or town affected shall appoint a member to serve until April 1 following the next regular municipal or town election, when a successor shall be elected for a full three-year term.

History: 1957 c 640 s 2; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1986 c 444

397.07 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF BOARDS.

The annual meetings of the hospital board shall be in April of each year, at which time the members shall elect from among themselves a chair and a clerk for a term of one year.

History: 1957 c 640 s 3; 1986 c 444

397.08 OPERATION EXPENSE, PAYMENT.

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, and, to the extent determined by the board or boards of county commissioners from time to time, from appropriations made in accordance with section 376.08. The hospital district board may agree to repay to the county any sums appropriated by the board of county commissioners for this purpose, out of the net revenues to be derived from operation of the hospital, and subject to such terms as may be agreed upon. All revenues so received and taxes

so levied shall be segregated in a special fund by the county treasurer of the county in which the hospital is situated and disbursed only upon orders signed by the chair of the hospital board and countersigned by the clerk of the hospital board, pursuant to resolutions of said hospital board. All contracts with reference to the construction, equipment and operation of such hospital shall be executed on behalf of the district by the chair and clerk of the hospital board.

History: 1957 c 640 s 4; 1986 c 444

397.09 TAX LEVY.

The board or boards of county commissioners 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 section 397.08, as may be necessary for the operation thereof in the succeeding year.

History: 1957 c 640 s 5

397.10 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 chapter 475. Proceedings for the issuance thereof shall be instituted and completed by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the hospital is located, subject to the approval of the county boards of all other counties containing territory within the district. 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 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 the elector resides, as established for state and county elections. Taxes for the payment of such bonds shall be levied by the county board or boards on all taxable property within the hospital district, and shall be segregated in a special sinking fund in the custody of the treasurer of the county where the hospital is located, and shall not be subject to any statutory limitation as to rate or amount. Such bonds shall not constitute indebtedness for any purpose of the county or any city or town, and shall be payable solely from taxes levied on properties within the hospital district, and the liability of the county or counties 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 laws; provided that the board or boards of county commissioners may from time to time appropriate moneys for the erection, construction, improvement, alteration and equipment of any hospital financed by such bonds, in the manner and to the extent authorized by section 376.08, which moneys may be directed by the county board making the appropriation to be credited to the sinking fund for such bonds or to be expended directly in payment of construction costs.

History: 1957 c 640 s 6; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1986 c 444

397.101 ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY.

After the creation of a hospital district any contiguous city or town may by resolution of its governing body request to be annexed thereto. All territory annexed shall be subject to taxation like other property in the district for the payment of principal and interest becoming due after the annexation on bonds of the district, whether authorized or issued before or after the annexation. If the hospital district has outstanding bonds or has voted bonds which are not issued, the annexation shall not be requested unless approved by a majority of the electors of the city or town voting thereon at a general or special election. No request for annexation shall be granted without the approval of the hospital district board and the boards of county commissioners of all counties containing territory within the district or to be annexed thereto, and each annexation shall be effected by a resolution of the county board of the county containing the territory

to be annexed. Approval of the annexation by the hospital district board may in its discretion be conditioned upon the contributions, by or on behalf of the city or town to be annexed, to the capital improvement fund or the bond sinking fund of the hospital district, of such amounts as may be agreed upon as a reasonable estimate of the proportionate share, properly applicable to the annexed territory, of capital costs previously paid by the district, having regard to contributions previously made by cities and towns in the district and their inhabitants, and principal and interest already paid on bonds of the district. Any city or town requesting to be so annexed may appropriate money or may authorize, issue and sell its bonds or may accept and expend contributions from private parties for the purpose of paying the proportionate share so agreed upon.

History: 1957 c 640 s 7; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7

397.102 REPEAL, POWERS SUPPLEMENTARY.

Subdivision 1. Laws 1955, Chapter 227, is repealed, provided that such repeal shall not affect the validity of the organization of any hospital district created thereunder or any actions or proceedings taken by such districts pursuant thereto, and all such districts shall hereafter be governed by the provisions of sections 397.05 to 397.102.

Subd. 2. Except as provided in subdivision 1, the powers granted herein are supplementary to and not in substitution for any other powers now possessed by counties, cities and towns with reference to the construction, improvement, operation and financing of hospitals and the creation of hospital districts.

History: 1957 c 640 s 8,9; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7

397.11 [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 72]

397.12 [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 72]

397.13 [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 72]

397.14 [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 72]

397.15 [Repealed, 1965 c 45 s 72]