

LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. **798** Session of
1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. ALLAN D. MILLER, MARCH 5, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY GENERAL,
MARCH 10, 1919.

AN ACT

To provide a uniform and equitable method of distributing money appropriated by the State for the relief of the poor by agencies not absolutely controlled by the State or any of its subdivisions defining the duties of the Board of Public Charities and of agencies affected in relation thereto

1 Section 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*
2 *sentatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly*
3 *met and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same That*
4 *on and after June first one thousand nine hundred and*
5 *twenty-one all money appropriated by this Commonwealth*
6 *for the relief of the poor by agencies not owned or*
7 *controlled by the State or by any of its subdivisions*
8 *shall be apportioned and distributed in the manner pro-*
9 *vided for by this act*

10 Section 2 The word "agencies" as used in this act
11 shall include all institutions hospitals homes societies asso-

1 ciations corporations and organizations now entitled by law
2 to grant relief to the poor or to have in their care
3 persons who are dependent upon such institutions hospitals
4 homes societies associations corporations or organizations for
5 their proper care and support The word "beneficiaries" shall
6 include inmates patients or others dependent upon such
7 agencies for care

8 Section 3 The Board of Public Charities shall adopt
9 and publish a schedule of classes of agencies subject to
10 the provisions of this act and shall prescribe for each
11 of said classes a schedule of minimum standards of fa-
12 cilities and services reasonably necessary for the proper
13 care and treatment of the beneficiaries of the agencies
14 of each class

15 Section 4 The Board of Public Charities shall adopt
16 and publish a schedules of minimum rates to be charged
17 for the care treatment of all beneficiaries receiving care
18 and treatment from the agencies of each of the classes
19 provided for in section three of this act which minimum
20 rates shall be uniform for all agencies of each class

21 Section 5 Before any agency shall be entitled to re-
22 ceive any money from the State as provided for in this
23 act such agency shall accept such schedule of minimum
24 standards and shall provide facilities and service reason-
25 ably equivalent in all respects to the minimum standards
26 of facilities and services prescribeed in said schedule of
27 minimum rates and charges prescribed for agencies of its
28 class as provided for in section four of this act in the
29 cases of all beneficiaries cared for or treated by such

1 agency except as hereinafter provided Provided that before the
2 schedule of classes standards and rates provided for in
3 sections three and four of this act shall be adopted and
4 enforced by the Board of Public Charities every part of
5 such schedule shall be submitted for the consideration of
6 every agency subject to the provisions of this act now
7 receiving financial aid from the State and opportunity shall
8 be given for the presentation of evidence by any such
9 agency as to its proper classification and as to the need
10 of modifications of the schedule of classes standards and
11 rates and provided further that such schedules of classes
12 standards and rates shall be adopted and published not
13 later than January first one thousand nine hundred and
14 twenty-one to take full force and effect on June first
15 one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one

16 Section 6 The State Board of Public Charities shall
17 prescribe a method of accounting subject to the approval
18 of the Auditor General of the Commonwealth for all agen-
19 cies subject to the provisions of this act which method
20 of accounting shall be uniform for all agencies of each
21 class and so far as possible uniform for all agencies
22 receiving money from the State and which will show
23 clearly the actual number of beneficiaries cared for main-
24 tained or treated during any period the actual cost of
25 caring for maintaining and treating each of such benefi-
26 ciaries and the total amount expended for such care
27 treatment and maintenance together with all money or other
28 valuable material things received in payment of such serv-
29 ice rendered

1 Section 7 Within thirty days after the expiration of
2 each quarter every agency entitled to receive money from
3 the State under this act shall submit a report in the
4 nature of a bill or statement for the preceding quarter
5 setting forth in full such facts as to the service rendered
6 by it and the cost of such service as the Board of
7 Public Charities shall require such report to be made on
8 forms to be prepared and furnished by the board, Such
9 report shall contain the name and residence of each benefi-
10 ciary cared for during the preceding quarter the date of
11 admission and discharge of each the name of the physi-
12 cian or surgeon the nurse or attendant in charge of
13 such beneficiary and such other facts as the Board may
14 require together with the amount if anything paid or
15 promised to be paid by each beneficiary for service ren-
16 dered and the amount paid or promised to be paid on
17 his behalf by those legally responsible for his support or
18 or by friends or by fraternal beneficial or charitable or-
19 ganizations or by employers or by public authorities legally
20 charged with the relief of the poor Opposite the names
21 of all beneficiaries by whom or on whose behalf payment
22 has not been made or promised to be made equal to
23 the actual cost of service rendered to such beneficiary as
24 computed by multiplying the number of days of care given
25 to such beneficiary by the minimum rate to be charged
26 for such service by such agency (as prescribed in the
27 schedule of rates hereinbefore provided for shall be writ-
28 ten "Free" or "Part-Pay" as the case may be If the
29 free or part-pay beneficiary was received under care upon

1 the application of the poor authorities of the district or
2 if the poor authorities have paid or promised to pay
3 any amount for the care or treatment of such beneficiary
4 the report shall be accompanied by the certificate of a
5 public official charged with relief of the poor to the
6 effect that each of such beneficiaries resident of the dis-
7 trict in which said official has jurisdiction is properly
8 entitled to receive public relief In all other cases of
9 free or part-pay beneficiaries the report shall be accom-
10 panied by a certificate of the superintendent or other
11 executive official of the reporting agency stating that after
12 due investigation and inquiry the said superintendent or
13 executive official knows or believes that each such bene-
14 ficiary is not able by himself or by those legally re-
15 sponsible for his support and maintenance to make fur-
16 ther payment for the service rendered to such beneficiary
17 by the agency

18 Said report shall also give the total expense for
19 maintenance and operation of the agency during the
20 quarter properly classified by items in accordance with the
21 method of accounting and reporting to be prescribed by
22 the Board under this act together with all revenues re-
23 ceived during the quarter and the sources from which
24 derived The report shall be sworn to by the superin-
25 tendent and the president secretary or treasurer of the
26 agency and shall be audited and approved by the State
27 Board of Public Charities before being presented to the

1 Auditor General for payment as hereinafter provided

2 No report as provided for by section seven of this
3 act shall be received by the State Board of Public
4 Charities after the thirtieth day following the last day
5 of the quarter and no agency failing to file the report
6 required by said seventh section shall receive State aid
7 provided for by this act for the quarter for which it
8 failed so to file a report

9 Section 8 Each of said agencies subject to the pro-
10 visions of this act which accepts adopts and carries into
11 effect the standards rules and duties imposed by this act
12 and by the Board of Public Charities in pursuance of
13 powers and duties now or hereafter conferred by law
14 shall receive quarterly from funds to be appropriated for
15 that purpose an amount equal to sixty per centum of
16 the actual cost of free service rendered by it in said
17 quarter in caring for poor residents of this Common-
18 wealth Provided that the whole amount paid to any one
19 agency in any quarter shall not exceed the amount prop-
20 erly chargeable for such service during the last quarter
21 for which report has been made as computed by multi-
22 plying the number of days of service rendered to free
23 or part-pay patients by the minimum rate to be charged
24 for such service as provided in section three and de-
25 ducting the amount paid or promised to be paid for
26 such service by part-pay patients or on their behalf by
27 those legally responsible for their support and mainte-
28 nance or by friends or relatives or by fraternal or

1 beneficial organizations or by their employers or by public
2 authorities charged with the relief of the poor and fur-
3 ther deducting the revenues received from investments and
4 donations not specifically appropriated by the donor or
5 applied by the agency for the construction of permanent
6 improvements or the provision of durable equipment reason-
7 ably required for the performance of the work of such
8 agency Provided further That the total disbursements for
9 any period shall not exceed one-eighth of the whole ap-
10 propriation for a bi-ennial period multiplied by the num-
11 ber of quarters that have elapsed during that period
12 Provided further That the amount distributed in any one
13 year shall not exceed one-half the total appropriation for
14 the bi-ennial period

Section 9 The Board of Public Charities shall have
1 the right (a) to investigate the management of any
2 agency receiving or applying for State aid under this
3 act or any supplement thereto or amendment thereof (b)
4 to examine its records and accounts (c) to require sup-
5 plemental and additional reports as to the finances facil-
6 ities equipment and service of any agency or class of
7 agencies whenever necessary for the proper performance of
8 the Board's duties under this act (d) to assign each
9 agency applying for State aid to its proper and appro-
10 priate class as provided in section three of this act
11 (e) to alter the classification by subdivision or addition
12 or reduction of classes (f) to transfer any agency from
13 one class to another class after three months' notice to
14 such agency setting forth in full the reasons for such

1 change (g) to examine into the admission or discharge
2 of any beneficiary and the necessity and propriety of
3 such beneficiary's receiving public relief (h) to reduce the
4 amount payable to any agency under this act upon evi-
5 dence and after notice to the agency that any bene-
6 ficiary is not entitled to receive public relief in the
7 amount charged to such beneficiary (i) to alter the
8 schedule of minimum standards prescribed for any class
9 of agencies at the end of any annual period after three
10 months' notice to all agencies receiving State aid under
11 this act setting the reasons for such alteration (j) to
12 alter the schedule of minimum rates to be charged for
13 service rendered by agencies of any class at the end
14 of any biennial period after six months' notice to all
15 agencies of that class setting forth the reason for such
16 alteration

17 Section 10 No agency receiving money from the State
18 under any other act shall receive any money under this
19 act

20 Section 11 No agency not incorporated under the laws
21 of Pennsylvania or now authorized by law to own real
22 estate and to operate in Pennsylvania shall receive any
23 money under this act nor shall any agency hereafter in-
24 corporated receive any money under this act unless before
25 incorporation it shall obtain from the Board of Public
26 Charities a certificate of approval of such incorporation
27 setting forth that in the opinion of the Board such
28 agency is reasonably necessary for the welfare of the
29 Commonwealth

1 Section 12 Nothing in this act shall be construed as
2 lessening or restraining the powers heretofore conferred upon
3 the Board of Public Charities in respect to the inspec-
4 tion supervision and control of agencies receiving aid
5 from the State

6 Section 13 All acts and parts of acts inconsistent
7 herewith are hereby repealed.