
LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. **1041** Session of
1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. SIMPSON, MARCH 24, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
MARCH 25, 1919.

AN ACT

To provide for the selection of a site and the erection of buildings for a State psychopathic hospital to be erected west of the Allegheny Mountains and to be known as the Western Pennsylvania State Psychopathic Hospital providing for the management of the same and making an appropriation for the purchase of said site and the preparation of plans for the construction of buildings for the said hospital

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 *immediately after the passage of this act the Governor*
5 *shall appoint a board which shall consist of nine citi-*
6 *zens of Pennsylvania and which shall be known as the*
7 *Board of Trustees of the Western Pennsylvania State*
8 *Psychopathic Hospital The said board shall be a body*
9 *corporate under said name and title and shall organize*

1 within thirty days after its appointment by the election
2 from its members of a chairman and a treasurer The
3 members shall receive no compensation for their services
4 but shall be allowed expenses actually and necessarily in-
5 curred in the performance of the duties herein prescribed
6 It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to sel-
7 ect and purchase a site in the western part of Penn-
8 sylvania unless in the judgment of the said board the
9 said hospital should be located on lands already owned
10 by the State of Pennsylvania or unless a site satis-
11 factory to the said board shall be donated to the Com-
12 monwealth for that purpose The Board of Trustees shall
13 also cause to be prepared plans and specifications for the
14 said hospital of such nature that the entire cost of the
15 site and buildings to be erected thereon together with
16 the equipment of said hospital shall not exceed two hun-
17 dred and seventy-five thousand (\$275,000.00) dollars

18 When the site so selected and the cost thereof shall
19 be approved by the Board of Public Charities and the
20 title to such land shall be approved by the Attorney
21 General said land shall be purchased in fee by the
22 Board of Trustees in the name of the Commonwealth
23 unless the said land shall be already owned by the
24 State of Pennsylvania or the same shall be donated thereto

25 The plans and specifications shall provide for build-
26 ings so constructed as to provide for the accommodation
27 of at least one hundred patients and shall be approved
28 by the Board of Public Charities Additional buildings
29 may be erected from time to time as the needs of the

1 institution shall require and as the General Assembly shall
2 appropriate funds for their construction

3 When the plans and specifications have been adopted
4 by the Board of Trustees and approved by the Board
5 of Public Charities no change therein shall be made un-
6 less on the express written recommendation of the Board
7 of Trustees approved by the Board of Public Charities

8 Section 2 In the construction of said buildings or the
9 improvement of the said site no contract involving an
10 expenditure of more than one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars
11 shall be made unless the same be duly advertised and
12 competitive bids thereon received All contracts shall be
13 made by the Board of Trustees

14 Section 3 A superintendent of construction for the
15 building of said Western Pennsylvania State Psychopathic
16 Hospital may be appointed by the Board of Trustees and
17 the said board may employ such other persons as it
18 may deem necessary to secure the speedy and economical
19 construction of the said hospital and provide the equip-
20 ment therefor The compensation of all such persons em-
21 ployed or appointed by the said board shall be fixed
22 by the board

23 Section 4 Upon the execution of any contract the
24 Board of Trustees shall furnish to the Auditor General
25 certified copies thereof

26 Section 5 All contracts for the equipment of said
27 buildings shall be entered into only after competitive bid-
28 ding and upon the contractor executing a bond to the
29 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in an amount and with

1 surety or sureties to be approved by the Board of
2 Trustees conditioned for the faithful performance of the
3 terms of the contract

4 Section 6 All payments made on account of the pur-
5 chase of land or on account of any contract for the
6 erection of said buildings shall be by warrants drawn by
7 the Auditor General on the State Treasurer but no war-
8 rant shall be drawn until the Board of Trustees shall
9 have certified to the Auditor General in writing that the
10 land purchased complies with the requirements of this act
11 and that the terms of the contract have been complied
12 with and that the work for which payment is to be
13 made by the warrant has been approved and accepted
14 by the board Payments shall be made for expenses main-
15 tenance or any other purpose by warrants drawn by the
16 Board of Trustees

17 Section 7 To provide for the purchase of said site
18 and for the preparation of plans for the buildings to
19 be erected thereon and for necessary costs and expenses
20 incident thereto the sum of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000.00)
21 dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary is
22 hereby specifically appropriated

23 Section 8 When the said buildings shall be sufficiently
24 completed and furnished to accommodate fifty inmates the
25 Board of Trustees shall certify that fact to the Gov-
26 ernor who shall thereupon reappoint all or any of the
27 members of the Board of Trustees or appoint new mem-
28 bers thereof as he may see fit reappointing or appoint-
29 ing three members for the term of three years three

1 for the term of two years and three for the term of
2 one year Thereafter the Governor shall annually appoint
3 three persons to fill the vacancies occurring by the ex-
4 piration of the term of members and shall fill by ap-
5 pointment any other vacancies that may occur for any
6 unexpired term or terms

7 Section 9 Immediately after the appointment or reap-
8 pointment of the members of the Board of Trustees as
9 provided in section eight of this act and annually there-
10 after the said board shall elect from its members a
11 president and a treasurer The said board shall have
12 power to make all necessary rules and regulations not
13 contrary to the Constitution and laws of this Common-
14 wealth for the government of said hospital and the of-
15 ficers and employes thereof and for the maintenance care
16 and treatment of the patients admitted thereto

17 Section 10 The said hospital may receive for institu-
18 tional care observation and diagnosis any person suffering
19 or appearing to suffer from nervous or mental disorders
20 and shall provide short intensive treatment of acute and
21 curable mental or nervous conditions Said hospital shall
22 make adequate provision of rooms and equipment for the
23 examination and treatment of its patients and the investi-
24 gation according to the best scientific methods of the na-
25 ture causes results and preventions of mental and nervous
26 disorders and allied conditions with a view to increasing
27 knowledge and improving methods of treatment and pre-
28 vention of such disorders and conditions

1 Section 11 The admission of patients to said hospital
2 and their care and support therein shall be governed by
3 the laws applicable to the admission care and support of
4 patients in the State Hospitals for the Insane

5 Section 12 The Board of Trustees shall appoint a
6 superintendent of said hospital who shall be a registered
7 physician trained in the care and treatment of patients
8 suffering from mental and nervous diseases and shall have
9 had at least five years' experience in such care and
10 treatment Said superintendent shall serve during the pleas-
11 ure of said board with such powers as may be con-
12 ferred upon him by said board Said board shall also
13 appoint such assistant physicians and other officers and
14 employes as may in their judgment be necessary for the
15 proper maintenance and government of said hospital and
16 may remove the same from time to time at pleasure
17 and shall fix the compensation of said superintendent
18 officers and employes

19 Section 13 The expense of maintaining the Western
20 Pennsylvania State Psychopathic Hospital and of the main-
21 tenance care and treatment of the patients therein shall
22 be paid by appropriations to be made by the General
23 Assembly from time to time except so much of the cost
24 of the maintenance care and treatment of patients as
25 shall be defrayed by the patients or their parents rela-
26 tives or legal guardians under the provisions of existing
27 law relative to the payment of the cost of the mainten-
28 ance care and treatment in hospitals for the insane ex-
29 cept so much of said cost as may be defrayed by

1 gifts or donations to said hospital or from the income
2 of such gifts or donations

3 Section 14 The Board of Trustees immediately after
4 the thirty-first day of May in each year shall report
5 to the Board of Public Charities the number of patients
6 received and discharged during the year ended on said
7 date and the results of treatment with such other infor-
8 mation as may be required or seem desirable The said
9 Board of Trustees shall at all times be subject to the
10 rules and regulations of the State Board of Public Chari-
11 ties for the supervision and control of the State Hos-
12 pitals for the Insane