
LEGISLATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

FILE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

No. 1213 Session of 1919.

INTRODUCED BY MR. VICKERMAN, APRIL 2, 1919.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY LOCAL,
APRIL 2, 1919.

AN ACT

Providing for assistance to certain mothers Providing for
the appointment of boards of trustees for the sev-
eral counties of the Commonwealth and for the ap-
pointment of a State supervisor and assistants and
fixing the salaries of such State supervisor and as-
sistants defining the powers and duties of boards of
trustees including the power of appointing assistants
and investigators and the distribution of funds at
their disposal providing for the apportionment of the
state appropriation among the several counties and requiring
counties coming under the provisions of the act to appro-
priate certain moneys and providing penalties

APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

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 *in each county of the Commonwealth which by the action*
5 *of its county commissioners accepts the provisions of this*

1 act the Governor shall appoint a board of trustees com-
 2 posed of not less than five and not more than seven
 3 women residents of the county to be called the board
 4 of trustees of the Mothers Assistance Fund All trustees
 5 heretofore appointed for the several counties by the Gov-
 6 ernor for such purposes shall continue to act and shall
 7 constitute the boards to administer the provisions of this
 8 act and all counties which have heretofore availed them-
 9 selves of the provisions of the acts repealed by this
 10 act shall be deemed to have accepted the provisions of
 11 this act and shall be entitled to the benefits thereof

12 STATE SUPERVISOR AND ASSISTANTS—SALARIES

13 Section 2 The Governor shall appoint a State super-
 14 visor qualified by training and experience who shall be
 15 a woman The State supervisor shall receive an annual
 16 salary of two thousand four hundred dollars and neces-
 17 sary travelling and office expenses The State supervisor
 18 shall with the approval of the Governor appoint an as-
 19 sistant state supervisor at a salary of one thousand six
 20 hundred dollars per annum and a clerk at a salary of
 21 one thousand two hundred dollars per annum In addition
 22 to their salaries the assistant State supervisor and the
 23 clerk shall receive their necessary and actual expenses

24 POWERS AND DUTIES OF STATE SUPERVISOR

25 Section 3 The State supervisor shall have general
 26 supervision over the boards of trustees of the several
 27 counties and shall act as general field organizer She
 28 shall be on the staff of the State Board of Education

29 The State supervisor shall formulate and issue to the

1 boards of trustees of the various counties rules of pro-
2 cedure by which they shall be governed to the end that
3 uniformity of interpretation and practice shall obtain
4 throughout the Commonwealth

5 She shall visit at least twice each year the boards
6 of trustees of each county accepting the provisions of
7 this act She shall as general field organizer visit the
8 county commissioners of these counties which have not
9 availed themselves of the provisions of this act and shall
10 explain to such commissioners the benefits accruing from
11 the act and the advantages of coming within its pro-
12 visions and shall assist such county commissioners in the
13 organization of boards of trustees

14 She shall make a report annually to the State
15 Board of Education reviewing the work done under the
16 provisions of this act by the trustees of the various
17 counties laying special stress upon educational conditions
18 of the assisted families

19 LOCAL SUPERVISION BY BOARDS OF TRUSTEE ET
20 CETERA

21 Section 4 The administration of this act within the
22 several counties shall be solely in the hands of the
23 boards of trustees appointed by the Governor subject how-
24 ever to the rules adopted and issued by the State
25 supervisor The members of the boards of trustees shall
26 serve without compensation but shall receive all actual
27 and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
28 their duty

1 HEADQUARTERS OF TRUSTEES EMPLOYEES

2 ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

3 Section 5 The boards of trustees shall provide suit-
4 able headquarters and shall appoint such competent inves-
5 tigators and clerical assistants as may be necessary and
6 shall provide suitable furnishings and stationery and provide
7 for the payment of salaries and incidental expenses At
8 no time however shall the annual expenses of administra-
9 tion in any county exceed ten per centum of the appro-
10 priation for the county for that year with the exception
11 of the first year when the trustees shall be permitted
12 to expend an additional sum of not more than five
13 hundred dollars for furnishings

14 MOTHERS ENTITLED TO ASSISTANCE

15 Section 6 It shall be the duty of the board of
16 trustees to provide from the funds made available under
17 the provisions of this act as aid in supporting their
18 children in their own homes assistance to poor and de-
19 pendent mothers of (proved character and ability) who
20 have children under the age of sixteen years and whose
21 husbands are dead or permanently confined in institutions
22 for the insane

23 CITIZENSHIP RESIDENCE

24 Section 7 In order to prevent the alienation of the
25 citizenship of those who may receive the benefits of this
26 act no family shall be a beneficiary thereunder unless
27 the mother has been a resident continuously of the State
28 for a period of two years and of the county in which
29 she applies for assistance for a period of one year.

1 No family entitled to receive the benefits of this act in any
2 county shall be deemed to have lost its residence in
3 such county within one year after removal therefrom but
4 any such family shall if it returns to the county in
5 which it was entitled to receive assistance within said
6 year be immediately entitled to assistance in such county

7 INVESTIGATION OF FAMILIES

8 Section 8 The trustees of the various counties shall
9 in no case recommend payment to any mother until they
10 are satisfied that she is of proper character and ability
11 and that for the proper maintenance of her children in
12 her own home monthly payments are necessary For such
13 purpose the board of trustees shall cause to be made
14 proper investigations No payment shall be made on ac-
15 count of any child of proper age and physical ability
16 unless satisfactory report has been made by the teacher
17 of the school in which such pupil is enrolled stating
18 that such child is attending school

19 MAXIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENTS

20 Section 9 The combined maximum payment allowed by
21 any board of trustees shall in no case exceed twenty
22 dollars per month for the first child and ten dollars per
23 month for each additional child A mother shall be en-
24 titled to assistance under this act for an unborn child
25 in like manner as for other children if she has one
26 or more children living which entitle her to the benefits of this act

27 RECORDS OF FAMILIES REPORTS

28 Section 10 Before any payment is made to any fam-
29 ily under the provisions of this act a complete report

1 of such family shall be made giving the name of the
2 mother the number of children with their full names
3 their ages and place of residence one copy of such re-
4 port shall be placed on file in the office of the board
5 of trustees as a record one copy shall be forwarded
6 to the State Supervisor and two copies shall be forwarded
7 with each application for a warrant for the use of the
8 Auditor General and the county treasurer The copies for-
9 warded to the Auditor General and the county treasurer
10 shall be sworn to by the investigator and shall be ap-
11 proved by a majority of the board of trustees

12 DURATION OF PAYMENTS

13 Section 11 All payments made under the provisions
14 of this act shall continue at the will of the trustees
15 but not beyond the time when any child under the pro-
16 visions of the law may secure employment excepting where
17 the child is physically unable to earn wages or is at
18 school with a satisfactory record of attendance and schol-
19 arship in which case such payment shall continue until
20 such child has reached the age of sixteen years

21 MODE OF PAYMENT

22 Section 12 All payments made under the provisions
23 of this act by the State Treasurer and by county treas-
24 urers shall be made direct to the recipient thereof by warrant

25 CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTIES FOR DISTRIBUTION

26 OF APPROPRIATIONS

27 Section 13 The State Treasurer after deducting from
28 the entire amount appropriated and re-appropriated from
29 time to time by the General Assembly the sums desig-

1 nated for the payment of salaries and expenses shall di-
2 vide the balance of such appropriations into two equal
3 sums. One equal part of each sum shall be distributed
4 for the first fiscal year among the several counties in the
5 manner hereinafter provided and according to the following
6 classification of counties.

7 First class Counties with a population of more than
8 one million five hundred thousand inhabitants eighteen per
9 centum.

10 Second class Counties with a population of more than
11 one million and not more than one million five hundred
12 thousand inhabitants twelve per centum.

13 Third class Counties with a population of more than
14 two hundred thousand and not more than one million in-
15 habitants equal parts of fifteen per centum.

16 Fourth Class Counties with a population of more than
17 one hundred thousand and not more than two hundred
18 thousand inhabitants equal parts of thirty per centum.

19 Fifth class Counties with a population of more than
20 fifty thousand and not more than one hundred thousand
21 inhabitants equal parts of fifteen per centum.

22 Sixth class Counties with a population of twenty-five
23 thousand inhabitants and not more than fifty thousand in-
24 habitants equal parts of seven per centum.

25 Seventh class Counties with a population of less than
26 twenty-five thousand inhabitants equal parts of three per
27 centum.

28 COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS

29 Section 14 No county shall receive its allotment of

1 the State appropriation available for any year under the
2 classification appointed by the preceding section unless such
3 county has accepted the provisions of this act and has
4 placed at the disposal of the board of trustees a sum
5 equal to the amount available from the State appropri-
6 ation for such year

7 STATE APPROPRIATIONS AVAILABLE SECOND FISCAL YEAR

8 Section 15 On the first day of June of the second
9 fiscal year following each State appropriation the State
10 Treasurer shall apportion among the various counties which
11 have accepted the provisions of this act before the end
12 of the first fiscal year a sum equal to the amount ap-
13 portioned to such county during the first fiscal year ac-
14 cording to the aforesaid classification including therein all
15 unexpended balances from the previous fiscal year credited
16 to the several counties accepting the provisions of this
17 act which unexpended moneys shall remain available during
18 the second fiscal year for use by the counties to which
19 theretofore credited and excluding all moneys apportioned to
20 the several counties which have not availed themselves of
21 the provisions of this act He shall likewise exclude from
22 said apportionment all moneys appropriated for the second
23 fiscal year for counties which have not accepted the pro-
24 visions of this act before the end of the first fiscal
25 year

26 SURPLUS FUNDS

27 Section 16 All funds set aside from year to year
28 for counties which have not availed themselves of
29 the provisions of this act shall be set aside into a sur-

1 plus fund The surplus fund shall be available during the
2 second fiscal year in the counties which have availed
3 themselves of the provisions of this act before the end
4 of the first fiscal year but no county shall be entitled
5 to an amount from such fund in excess of twenty-five
6 per centum of the aggregate sum apportioned and set
7 aside by the State Treasurer to that county for the two
8 year period and no such county shall participate in such
9 surplus fund unless it shall in addition to the appro-
10 priations hereinbefore required appropriate a sum equal to
11 the amount which it desires from the surplus fund

12 PENALTIES

13 Section 17 Any person securing any allowance contrary
14 to the provisions of this act shall be guilty of a mis-
15 demeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be sentenced
16 to pay a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to
17 undergo imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year
18 or both at the discretion of the court

19 REPORT BY STATE SUPERVISOR

20 Section 18 A detailed report of the number of bene-
21 ficiaries the amount expended and the advantages and dis-
22 advantages of the system with recommendations for im-
23 provement shall be made by the State supervisor to the
24 General Assembly at the beginning of each session of the
25 General Assembly Such report shall be printed by the
26 State Printer upon requisition by the Superintendent of
27 Public Instruction to the Department of Printing and
28 Binding

REPEAL

1
2 Section 19 The act approved the twenty-ninth day of
3 April one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet
4 Laws one hundred and eighteen) entitled "An act ap-
5 plicable to all counties of this Commonwealth to provide
6 monthly payments as approved by the trustees to indigent
7 widowed or abandoned mothers for partial support of their
8 children in their own homes The manner of appointment
9 of the trustees the administration of the trust amount of
10 appropriations proportioning appropriations co-ordinate appropri-
11 ations amounts to be paid form of records eligibility pen-
12 alties and reports as set forth" and the act approved
13 the eighteenth day of June one thousand nine hundred
14 and fifteen (Pamphlet Laws one thousand and thirty-eight)
15 entitled "An act amending an act entitled 'An act ap-
16 plicable to all counties of this Commonwealth to provide
17 montlily payments as approved by the trustees to indigent
18 widowed or abandoned mothers for partial support of their
19 children in their own homes The manner of appointment of
20 the trustees the administration of the trust amount of
21 appropriations proportioning appropriations co-ordinate appropri-
22 ations amounts to be paid form of records eligibility pen-
23 alties and reports as set forth' approved April twenty-ninth
24 nineteen hundred and thirteen by limiting the provisions
25 of said act to women whose husbands are dead or per-
26 manently insane and who have children under sixteen years
27 of age and providing for uniformity of administration by
28 the appointment of the State Supervisor over the boards

1 of trustees of different counties and otherwise amending
2 the provisions of said act and making an appropriation
3 to carry out the provisions of this act" are hereby re-
4 pealed