

No. 412.

AN ACT

Creating a State Council for the Blind as a departmental administrative board within the Department of Welfare; and defining its powers and duties.

Department
of Welfare.

Creating a State
Council for the
Blind.

Members.

Proviso.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That a State Council for the Blind shall be created as a departmental administrative board within the Department of Welfare. The State Council for the Blind shall consist of seven members, of whom three shall be the Secretary of Welfare, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Secretary of Labor and Industry. The other four members—one at least by preference a blind person—shall be appointed by the Governor to serve for terms of four years and until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified: Provided, That of the first members appointed hereunder two shall be appointed for two years and two shall be appointed for four years. No paid employe of any school, institution, or other agency carrying on work for the blind, shall be eligible for appointment. Members of the State Council for the Blind shall serve without compensation, but shall receive their necessary traveling and other expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties.

Organization.

Meetings.

Vacancies.

Quorum.

Powers and
duties.

Formulation of
general policy.

Section 2. The State Council for the Blind shall annually elect from its members a chairman. The Secretary of Welfare shall be the Secretary and executive officer of the council. The council shall adopt its own rules of procedure and shall fix the time of its regular meetings. At least four regular meetings shall be held each year. Special meetings may be called jointly by the chairman of the council and the secretary, and shall be called by the chairman on the written request of any three of the appointed members of the council. A vacancy in the office of any appointed member of the council shall be filled by the Governor, who shall appoint a member for the unexpired term. Four members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The State Council for the Blind shall have the power and its duties shall be:

(a) To formulate a general policy and program for the prevention of blindness and for the improvement of the condition of the blind in this Commonwealth. Such policy and program shall be modified from time to time as may be found necessary or advisable in the light of improvements in method and practice;

(b) To make recommendations in accordance with such policy and practice to the several executive and administrative departments, boards, and commissions of this Commonwealth, and to any public or private agencies therein which may be in any way concerned with work with or for the blind;

Recommendations to departments, boards and commissions.

(c) To co-operate with State and local agencies, both public and private, in taking steps to prevent the loss of sight, in alleviating the condition of blind persons and persons of impaired vision, in extending and improving the education, advisement, training, placement and conservation of the blind, and in promoting their personal, economic, social, and civic well-being;

Co-operate with State and local agencies.

(d) To act as a means for communicating with other State agencies, public or private, and with national agencies, and to co-operate in efforts to procure an enactment of legislation regarding the prevention of blindness, the improvement of the blind, or the regulation of private agencies for the care of the blind;

Means of communicating with other agencies.

(e) To collect, systematize, and make available for other agencies, information in regard to blind persons and persons of impaired vision in this Commonwealth, including their present physical and mental condition, the causes of blindness, and the possibilities of improvement of vision, their financial status and earning capacity, their capacity for education and vocational training, and any other relevant information looking toward the improvement of their condition;

Collection of information.

(f) To refer cases of blind persons, or problems in relation to the blind or prevention of blindness, to such agencies, public or private, as may be likely to deal most successfully with them;

Refer cases to agencies.

(g) To encourage the co-operation of all agencies, public and private, doing work for the blind in this Commonwealth, and of agencies whose work is related to the prevention of blindness; and

Encourage co-operation of all agencies.

(h) To supervise the expenditure of State appropriations made to such agencies, except in cases in which such supervision is by law within the powers or duties of some other administrative department, board, or commission.

Supervise expenditure of appropriations.

Section 4. The State Council for the Blind created by this act within the Department of Welfare shall be and be deemed a departmental administrative board within the State Department, and shall be subject in all respects to the laws of this Commonwealth limiting the powers of departmental administrative boards or commissions with regard to the expenditure of money and prescribing the duties of departmental administrative boards with reference to the making of financial

Council shall be a departmental administrative board.

reports, the furnishing of financial and budgetary information to the department with which it is connected, and the making of biennial reports.

APPROVED--The 14th day of May, A. D. 1925.

I approved this bill because of intense interest in promoting the welfare of the blind, but with clear conviction that the State Council for the Blind herein created should be within the Department of Public Instruction instead of within the Department of Welfare, and with the hope that it will later be transferred.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.

AN ACT

No. 413.

Concerning poor relief and the creation and government of poor districts and the administration of the same in all counties of the Commonwealth, except in counties of the first and second class; and revising, amending, consolidating, and changing the law relating thereto.

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

ARTICLE I

NAME AND EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That this act shall be known and may be cited as "The General Poor Relief Act of one thousand nine hundred and twenty-five." This act shall take effect on the first Monday of January, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six.

Section 2. *What Act Does Not Include.* This act does not include any provisions and shall not be construed to repeal any acts relating to:

(a) The procedure for the collection of municipal claims by liens.

(b) The amount and method of incurring or increasing bonded indebtedness.

(c) Election officers and conduct of elections.

(d) Care of the insane or feeble-minded, epileptic, or habit cases.

(e) Boards of Health.

(f) Common schools.

(g) Constables.

(h) Justices of the peace, except as to their authority to grant orders of poor relief, which is hereby expressly withdrawn.

(i) Validations of elections, bonds, ordinances, and acts of corporate officers.

Section 3. *Continuation of Existing Laws.* The provisions of this act, so far as they are the same as those of existing laws, are intended as a contin-