

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That a commission is hereby created which shall consist of ten members to serve without compensation, five of whom shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, and five shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House. The commission shall be known as the "Local Government Commission." The term of each member of the commission shall run from the date of his respective appointment until the end of the next regular session of the General Assembly *in odd numbered years* and until his successor is appointed and qualified. After the close of each regular session of the General Assembly *in odd numbered years*, the President pro tempore and the Speaker shall make the appointments authorized by this section. Any vacancy happening in the membership of the commission shall be filled by the appointing power making the original appointment for the unexpired term. The commission shall organize as soon as may be after the close of each regular session of the General Assembly *in odd numbered years*, at the call of the President pro tempore of the Senate, by electing a chairman, vice-chairman, and a secretary. The secretary need not be a member of the commission.

Local Govern-  
ment Commis-  
sion created.

Term of office.

Filling vacancies.

Organization of  
commission.

Section 7. Any [biennial] appropriation to the commission shall be used in accordance with the purposes, if any, expressed in the appropriation act and for the payment of the expenses of the members of the commission; for the compensation and expenses of the secretary and other appointees of the commission; for printing; for postage, supplies, telephone, telegraph, rent, and miscellaneous expenses; and generally for the purposes of carrying into effect the provisions of this act.

Expenditure of  
any appropri-  
ation made to  
commission.

APPROVED—The 8th day of December, A. D. 1959.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE

No. 648

AN ACT

Amending the act of June 12, 1951 (P. L. 533), entitled "An act relating to mental health, including mental illness, mental defect, epilepsy and inebriety; and amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," changing requirements for admission or detention of certain patients, further regulating the payment of costs for the care of such patients, and limiting liability for such payment.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

The Mental  
Health Act of  
1951.

Section 703, act of June 12, 1951, P. L. 533, amended by adding a new subsection (f).

Section 1. Section 703, act of June 12, 1951 (P. L. 533), known as "The Mental Health Act of 1951," is amended by adding, at the end thereof, a new subsection to read:

Section 703. Court Order for Payment of Costs.—

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(f) *The liability of any person not a patient for payment of costs of care of any mental defective or epileptic patient shall be the amount of the court order regardless of the actual costs of care of such patient, and payment of the amount so ordered shall relieve any person not a patient of all further liability for payment of costs of care of such mental defective or epileptic patient.*

Subsection (a), section 726 of the act, amended.

Section 2. Subsection (a) of section 726 of the act is amended to read:

Section 726. Mental Defectives and Epileptics in Schools.—(a) No superintendent of any school shall accept an application for the admission of any mental defective or epileptic until the Department of Revenue has fixed the amount, if any, to be paid, *by the patient and by the parents of the patient* for the maintenance of the patient. The amount [shall be fixed according to the ability to pay of the parent of the patient, or] *to be paid by the patient shall be fixed* according to the value of his estate. *The amount to be paid by the parent of the patient shall be fixed according to the ability of the parent to pay, taking into consideration the income of the parent, the number of other persons supported by the parent and the other financial obligations of the parent.* [Payment of] *Agreement to pay* the amount so [far as there is ability to pay,] *fixed* shall be required as a condition to the admission or detention of the patient. The amount may be changed from time to time by the Department of Revenue upon its receiving further information concerning ability to pay. *The liability of a parent for payment of the maintenance of any mentally defective or epileptic shall be the amount so fixed or so changed by the Department of Revenue, and payment of the amount so fixed or so changed shall relieve the parent of all further liability for payment of the maintenance of the patient.*

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APPROVED—The 10th day of December, A. D. 1959.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE