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

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 18, act of April 29, 1937 (P. L. 487), known as "The Permanent Registration Act for Cities of the Second Class, Cities of the Second Class A, Cities of the Third Class, Boroughs, Towns, and Townships," reenacted and amended May 31, 1955 (P. L. 62), is amended to read:

Section 18. Manner of Registration.—

(a) Every person claiming the right to be registered as an elector must appear in person before the commission, a commissioner, a registrar, or a clerk, at the office of the commission, or at such other place as the commission shall have designated, and answer the questions required to be asked in accordance with this act.

Every person claiming the right to be registered as an elector who is physically disabled so that he cannot appear in person to be registered may request, in writing, that the registration commission send a registrar to the residence of such person for the purpose of registering such person in the same manner as required by law of other persons appearing for registration. The letter requesting such registration shall be accompanied by a statement of the physician attending such person, stating that such person is physically disabled to the extent that such person is unable to appear at any of the established places for registration. Upon receipt by the registration commission of such a letter duly accompanied by the required physician's statement, the registration commission shall direct one of its registrars to go to the residence of such disabled person and register him or her, as the case may be.

Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 1962.

Approved—The 19th day of September, A. D. 1961.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE

No. 638

## AN ACT

Amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P. L. 323), entitled "An act relating to counties of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth classes; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," abolishing county institution districts in counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes; transferring their property, powers, duties and obligations to counties; prescribing certain further duties of county commissioners with regard to persons in foster homes and as to children and youth, and regulating payments for care.

The Permanent Registration Act for Cities of the Second Class, Cities of the Second Class A, Cities of the Third Class, Boroughs, Towns and Townships,

Subsection (a), section 18, act of April 29, 1937, P. L. 487, reenacted and amended May 31, 1955, P. L. 62, further amended.

Effective date.

The County Code.

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

Clause (3), section 103, act of August 9, 1955, P. L. 323, repealed.

Section 1. Clause (3) of section 103, act of August 9, 1955 (P. L. 323), known as "The County Code," is repealed.

Section 1770 of the act, amended April 17, 1959. P. L. 48, further amended.

Section 2. Section 1770 of the act, amended April 17, 1959 (P. L. 48), is amended to read:

Section 1770. Tax Levies.—No tax shall be levied on personal property taxable for county purposes where the rate of taxation thereon is fixed by law other than at the rate so fixed. The county commissioners shall fix, by resolution, the rate of taxation for each year. No tax for general county purposes in counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes, exclusive of the requirements for the payment of the interest and principal of the funded debt of any such county, shall in any one year exceed the rate of [ten] twenty mills on every dollar of the adjusted valuation. No tax for general county purposes in counties of the third, seventh and eighth classes, exclusive of the requirements for the payment of the interest and principal of the funded debt of any such county, shall in any one year exceed the rate of ten mills on every dollar of the adjusted valuation. In fixing the rate of taxation, the county commissioners, if the rate is fixed in mills, shall also include in the resolution a statement expressing the rate of taxation in dollars and cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of taxable property.

The rate of taxation fixed for any occupation tax levied by a county of the fourth, fifth or sixth class shall not in any one year exceed [ten] twenty mills and the rate of taxation fixed for any occupation tax levied by a county of the seventh or eighth class shall not exceed ten mills.

Section 1785 of the act amended by adding a new subsection (f).

Section 3. Section 1785 of the act is amended by adding, at the end thereof, a new subsection to read:

Section 1785. Committee to Prepare Uniform Forms.—

(f) It shall be the duty of the Secretary of Internal Affairs to include within the budget and report forms specified in this article the changes necessitated by the provisions of this act in regard to property, powers, duties and obligations of institution districts transferred to counties and the committee established by this section shall not be responsible therefor.

Section 1805 and

subsection (b), Section 4. Section 1805 and subsection the act amended to read: Section 1805 and subsection (b) of sec-

Section 1805. Sales of Personal Property and Surplus Farm Products.—(a) No personal property of the county and no surplus farm products of counties of the fourth, fifth or sixth classes shall be disposed of by sale or otherwise, except upon resolution of the commissioners. When the commissioners approve a sale of such property or in counties of the fourth, fifth or sixth classes of farm products, they shall estimate the sale value of the entire lot to be disposed of, and, if the estimate be less than two hundred dollars (\$200), they shall require notice of the proposed sale to be posted, for at least ten days, in a prominent place in the court house, describing and itemizing the property to be sold, and directing that bids may be made thereon at the office of the chief clerk of the commissioners. Thereafter, the commissioners may sell such property in whole or in part for the best price or prices obtainable.

(b) If the commissioners estimate the sale value of the personal property or of such surplus farm products to be sold at two hundred dollars (\$200) or more, the entire lot shall be advertised for sale, once, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county, and sale of the property so advertised shall be made to the highest and best bidder. The bids shall not be opened until at least ten days after the said advertisement. The commissioners may sell any such property at auction, but the provisions as to notice contained in this section shall be likewise observed as to the holding of auction sales. The provisions of this section shall not be mandatory where county property is to be traded in or exchanged for new personal property.

Section 1980. Board of Visitors for Charitable Reform and Penal Institutions.— \* \* \*

(b) The board of visitors of each county shall visit at least three times a year all county hospitals, detention homes, children's homes, jails and like institutions of the county, or any agency of the county, or in counties of the third, seventh and eighth classes of the institution district of the county, and all similar institutions and other charitable institutions to which the county appropriates money. Such visits shall be unannounced, and shall be made either by all of the members of the board or by a lesser number acting for the board. The board shall inspect the premises involved, and shall be entitled to full access thereto and to interview any of the inmates thereof, and shall inspect and ascertain all matters pertaining to the welfare and proper conduct of such institutions and, particularly, the treatment received by the inmates. The board shall make an annual report to the court of common pleas, upon a date fixed by the

court, regarding all such things and such other matters as may be referred to them by the court regarding such institutions, and the board may also report to the said court, from time to time, as the board shall see fit. A copy of such reports shall be submitted by the board to the proper authorities for such institutions.

Section 1990 of the act, added July 8, 1957, P. L. 549, amended. Section 5. Section 1990 of the act, added July 8, 1957 (P. L. 549), is amended to read:

Section 1990. Appropriations for Handling, Storage and Distribution of Surplus Foods.—The board of commissioners of any county to which this act applies may appropriate from county funds, or in counties of the third, seventh and eighth classes from county institution district funds, moneys for the handling, storage and distribution of surplus foods obtained either through a local, State or Federal agency.

All appropriations of moneys heretofore made by the board of commissioners of any county out of county funds, or county institution district funds, for the handling, storage and distribution of surplus foods obtained either through a local, State or Federal agency, are hereby validated.

Article XXI. of the act, amended by adding a new subdivision (e). Section 6. Article XXI. of the act is amended by adding, after subdivision (d), a new subdivision to read:

### (e) CARE OF DEPENDENTS AND CHILDREN

Section 2160. Definitions.—As used in this subdivision, unless the context otherwise indicates:

"Institution District" means a county institution district managed by the commissioners of the county.

"Dependent" means an indigent person requiring public care because of physical or mental infirmity.

"Institution" means an infirmary, poorhouse, almshouse, hospital or sanitarium managed by the commissioners of the county.

"Public Charge" means a person who is unable to maintain himself and who requires and receives aid from the Commonwealth or from any political subdivision thereof.

Section 2161. County Institution Districts Abolished.—All county institution districts in counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes are hereby abolished. The property, real and personal, of each such existing county institution district on the effective date of these amendments, is hereby transferred to and vested in the county wherein the institution district is located. All indebtedness of any institution district, whether current or bonded, incurred in the acquisition of any of such prop-

erty, and in \*erecting improvements thereon, shall become the debt and obligation of such county and shall be paid by it. All the powers and duties of the institution districts, in connection with administering their affairs, are hereby transferred to the counties in which such institution districts are located.

Section 2162. Records.—The commissioners of each county of the fourth, fifth and sixth \*\*class shall keep records of the work necessitated by this subdivision as prescribed by the Department of Public Welfare, and shall, from time to time, make such reports to such department as it shall require.

Section 2163. Powers and Duties.—The county commissioners of counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes shall have the power and their duty shall be:

- (1) To erect, equip, maintain, repair, alter and add to institutions for the care of dependents, and to equip, maintain, cultivate and improve farms, using their produce for the support of dependents, or if a surplus of farm products should exist, the commissioners may sell the surplus pursuant to section 1805 of this act. Any plan for the erection or substantial alteration of an institution must be approved as to suitability by the Department of Public Welfare and as to the amount of money to be expended by the court of common pleas.
- (2) To pay the necessary expenses of land and buildings for the care of dependents and farms.

Section 2164. Further Powers and Duties. — The county commissioners of counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes shall have the power and it shall be their duty, with funds of the county, according to rules, regulations and standards established by the Department of Public Welfare:

- (1) To care for any neglected child or for any dependent, whether adjudicated as neglected or dependent by a court or not, having a settlement in the county, who is not otherwise cared for.
- (2) To contract with other counties or any institution district for the care of any such neglected child or for any dependent, whether adjudicated as neglected or dependent by a court or not.
- (3) To contract with any association in Pennsylvania organized to provide a home or employment for deaf and dumb or blind persons having a settlement in the county, or to care for any dependent having a settlement in the county, who is deaf and dumb or blind or to help him through employment.

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;erect" in original.

<sup>\*\* &</sup>quot;classes" in original.

- (4) To pay the cost or part of the cost with respect to mental or other patients imposed by law upon county institution districts.
  - (5) To take any other action authorized by law.
- (6) To contract with any individual, association, corporation, institution or governmental agency for the purpose of providing foster home care for persons over eighteen years of age, who are in institutions and under the care and supervision of the county. If, in the discretion of the county commissioners, such foster home care is advisable, the county commissioners may expend funds for such foster home care in addition to any funds paid by the Commonwealth or any individual, association, corporation, institution or governmental agency to or for such persons over eighteen years of age.
- (7) To require that any person cared for in an institution as defined herein shall pay for the cost of his care to the extent of his available resources.

Section 2165. Care of Persons Referred by Department of Public Welfare.—The county commissioners of counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes shall have power to care for any dependent or other indigent person in the county who is referred to them by the Department of Public Welfare or by a local board under its supervision, pending the determination of such person's legal settlement.

Section 2166. Provision for Burial of Dependents and Other Persons.—Except as otherwise provided by law, the county commissioners of counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes shall provide for the burial of any person who dies in the county unless his body is claimed by a relative by blood or marriage, or by a friend, or by his fraternal or veterans' organization, or by a charitable organization, or by the Anatomical Board of the State of Pennsylvania, and is buried at the expense of such relative, friend or organization. No such burial shall cost more than one hundred dollars (\$100).

Section 2167. Treatment of Persons in Danger of Hydrophobia.—The county commissioners of counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes shall provide, with approved medical care and proper attendance (including the so-called Pasteur treatment, where prescribed), all indigent persons settled within their district who may be assumed to be in danger of suffering from hydrophobia or rabies by reason of having been bitten by an animal believed to have been suffering from the disease, and to order payment of the expenses so incurred out of the funds of the county for the care of dependents.

Section 2168. Powers and Duties of County Commissioners as to Children.—The county commissioners of any county of the fourth, fifth or sixth class shall have the power and for the purpose of protecting and promoting the welfare of children and youth, it shall be their duty to provide those child welfare services designed to keep children in their own homes, prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation, help overcome problems that result in dependency, neglect or delinquency, and to provide in foster family homes and child caring institutions adequate substitute care for dependent or neglected children, whether or not such children have been adjudicated as neglected or dependent, and upon the request of the court for children and youth who have been adjudicated delinquent.

No child under the age of sixteen years shall, unless he is mentally or physically handicapped and no other care is available for him, be admitted to, or maintained in, an institution conducted by the county commissioners of fourth, fifth or sixth class counties other than a hospital or sanitarium.

Section 2169. Contributions for Medical Care.—The commissioners of each county of the fourth, fifth or sixth class shall have the power to make annual appropriations from the funds of the county for the support of any public institution operated, or to any nonprofit corporation organized, to give medical care to the dependents and children of the county without discrimination as to membership in any organization or as to race or sect.

Section 2170. Inspections by Department of Public Welfare.—The institutions and books, accounts and records of each county pertaining to its powers and duties authorized by this subdivision shall, at all times, be open to the inspection of the Department of Public Welfare and its agents.

Section 2171. Reports of Persons Applying for Treatment of Disease.—Each county of the fourth, fifth and sixth class shall make a record of all of the personal and statistical particulars relative to the inmates in their institutions, as directed by the Department of Health, for statistical purposes, and thereafter such record shall be by them made for all future inmates at the time of their admission. In case of dependents admitted or committed for medical treatment of disease, the physician in charge shall specify for entry in the record the nature of the disease and where, in his opinion, it was contracted. The personal particulars and information required by this section shall be obtained from the individual dependent himself, if it is practicable

to do so, and when they cannot be so obtained, they shall be secured in as complete a manner as possible from the relatives, friends or other persons acquainted with the facts.

Section 2172. Rules and Regulations.—The county commissioners of each county of the fourth, fifth and sixth class shall have power to make such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this act and not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Welfare, as may be deemed proper, convenient and necessary for the government of its institutions and to properly care for dependents.

Section 2173. Providing Certain Services Without Charge Prohibited.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no county commissioners shall provide without charge any items of care or service which an individual is entitled to receive as assistance under the "Public Assistance Law," but this section shall not be construed to preclude county commissioners from supplementing such public assistance.

Section 2174. Payments by County Commissioners for Assistance.—The county commissioners shall pay monthly to the Department of Public Welfare, as such county commissioners payment for assistance, the amount expended by the department during the preceding month as assistance on behalf of patients receiving public nursing home care in a county medical institution, plus the cost of administering such assistance, minus the amount of Federal funds properly received or to be received by the Department of Public Welfare on account of such expenditures increased or reduced, as the case may be, by any amount by which the sum paid for any previous month differed from the amount which should have been paid for such previous month and by the proportionate share of refunds of such assistance as provided in the "Public Assistance Law." The Department of Public Welfare shall certify to the county commissioners the amount to be paid by them to the department.

Section 2174.1. Limitation of Authority Respecting Public Assistance Recipients.—The county commissioners shall not exercise supervision or control over the finances or services other than medical or remedial care provided as assistance to or on behalf of dependents who are recipients of assistance under the "Public Assistance Law."

Section 2175. Settlement.—For the purposes of this subdivision:

- (1) A legitimate person is first settled in the county of birth unless the father shall have a known settlement elsewhere, in which case the first settlement of such person is in the county where the father was then settled.
- (2) An illegitimate person is first settled in the county of birth unless the mother shall then have a known settlement elsewhere, in which case the first settlement of such person is in the county where the mother was then settled.
- (3) The settlement of a person in a county continues until a new one is acquired in this Commonwealth or elsewhere. A settlement is lost only by acquiring a new one, except that a person who has settlement in this Commonwealth, and who is residing in another state, shall be deemed to have lost settlement in this Commonwealth if a person from such other state, in like circumstances, could have acquired settlement in this Commonwealth by residence in this Commonwealth, as hereinafter provided: and except that a person having settlement in this Commonwealth, who has been absent therefrom and who has been residing in another state, shall be deemed to have lost settlement in this Commonwealth if a resident of such other state, who is residing in this Commonwealth, would lose settlement in such other state as a result of absence therefrom for a period of equal duration or for a period of lesser duration.
- (4) Except as hereinafter otherwise provided, every adult and every emancipated minor, whether married or single, legitimate or illegitimate, may acquire a new settlement in any county of this Commonwealth or in the Commonwealth by coming bona fide to establish a permanent abode therein and continuing to reside therein for one whole year, if such person or minor is of sufficient mental ability to make a bargain, and is not or does not become a public charge during such year.
- (5) The settlement of a married woman during coverture follows that of her husband and continues after his death in the county or place where he was last settled, but she may thereafter acquire a new settlement for herself. If the husband has no known settlement, then she is settled, whether he is living or dead, in the county or place where she was last settled. The settlement of a woman after divorce absolute or from bed and board, or desertion by the husband, or withdrawal by the wife from cohabitation with the husband on account of his cruelty, inebriety or lack of support, continues in the county or place where the husband was last settled, but she may acquire a new settlement for herself.
- (6) A minor, whether legitimate or illegitimate, cannot be emancipated before age sixteen, and becomes

- emancipated absolutely at age twenty-one, if then of sufficient mental ability to make a bargain. After age sixteen and before age twenty-one, a minor of sufficient mental ability to make a bargain may become emancipated by his own acts or the acts of the parent, stepfather or stepmother having had the custody. When a person is emancipated, he or she is capable of establishing a new settlement.
- (7) A minor, whether legitimate or illegitimate, who is so mentally deficient as to be unable to make a bargain cannot be emancipated after age sixteen, and such a person does not become emancipated at age twenty-one and so long thereafter, as the mental condition continues. The settlement of such a person shall at all times during mental disability be ascertained as provided in clauses (8) and (9) of this section for the settlement of minors not emancipated.
- (8) Before emancipation, the settlement of a legitimate minor is and remains that of the father, unless—
- (i) The father is dead and the mother acquired a new settlement, in which case it follows that of the mother; or
- (ii) The father deserts his family, in which case it follows that of the mother; or
- (iii) The mother withdraws from cohabitation with the husband on account of his cruelty, inebriety or lack of support, in which case it follows that of the parent having the custody; or
- (iv) The parents are divorced, either absolutely or from bed and board, in which case it follows that of the parent having the exclusive custody, but where custody is divided between the parents the settlement remains that of the father; or
- (v) Both parents are dead and the minor is in the custody of a stepfather or stepmother, in which case it follows that of the stepfather or stepmother having the custody.
- (9) Before emancipation, the settlement of an illegitimate minor at all times follows that of the mother, and in case of her death before emancipation of such minor, continues in the custody or place in which she was last settled, until such person establishes a new settlement after emancipation.
- (10) If a person has no known settlement in this Commonwealth and cannot for any reason whatever be removed into the state or country where settled, he shall have a quasi-settlement in the county where he or she becomes a public charge, which county shall, if he be a dependent, be liable for his or her support, otherwise such liability shall be upon the Commonwealth.

(11) If a person becomes a public charge in a county other than the one in which settled, such county, if he be a dependent, otherwise the Commonwealth, shall be liable for support until the county, state or country of settlement is discovered, and removal to such county, state or country takes place. Any country of settlement shall be liable to the county in which the person became a dependent for the cost of care advanced and the expenses of removal.

Section 2176. Removal to County of Settlement.—In case any person does not have a settlement in the county of the fourth, fifth or sixth class wherein he has become, or is likely to become, a dependent, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to notify the county commissioners of the county of his settlement of the facts. If the county commissioners, so notified, refuse or neglect to receive him or to make arrangements for his proper care and to pay the amount advanced, the county commissioners during such care may apply to the court of quarter sessions of their county, or to any judge thereof, by petition, asking for a citation to the county commissioners, so refusing or neglecting, requiring them to appear before such court at a time specified therein, and to show cause why an order should not issue for the removal of such dependent into their county. The court shall proceed to hear and determine the cause upon its merits, and its decree shall be final, unless an appeal therefrom be taken within thirty days.

The citation accompanied by a copy of the petition shall be served by the sheriff of the county, who may, for that purpose, deputize the sheriff of the county of the cited county, upon one or more of the county commissioners named therein, or, with the approval of the court, service may be had by sending such copy by registered mail. The service of mailing shall be at least ten days before the day fixed for such hearing. Upon the hearing and argument before the court, it shall be lawful for either of the parties to the issue to except to any decision of the court upon any point of evidence or law, which exception shall be noted by the court and filed of record as in civil cases. An appeal to an appellate court may be taken by either party from the judgment or decree of the court.

Section 2177. Liability for Costs.—In case an order of removal is granted by any court of quarter sessions, the court, in the same order, shall require the county of settlement to pay the petitioners the cost of the proceedings, the expense of removal, and the proper charges for the care of the dependent, from the date of the notice first above provided for, all of which expense, cost, and charges shall be ascertained and allowed by

the court. If an order of removal is refused, the cost of the proceeding shall be paid by the county petitioning therefor.

The court of quarter sessions shall have full and complete authority and jurisdiction to enforce by appropriate methods its orders or directions made in such proceeding.

Sections 2301, 2303 and 2305 of the act, amended. Section 7. Sections 2301, 2303 and 2305 of the act are amended to read:

Section 2301. Title to Real Estate Vested in County.—The title to all court houses, jails, prisons and workhouses, together with the lots of land thereunto belonging or appertaining, and all other real property acquired or that may hereafter be acquired by or for use of the county, shall be vested in the county for the use of the people thereof and for no other use, except as hereinafter provided. In counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes, this section shall apply to lands and buildings for the care of dependents and farms.

Section 2303. Insuring Buildings and Contents.—The county commissioners may provide insurance against fire and extended coverage, against public liability and such other forms of insurance, including insurance against burglary, as shall seem proper to them for county lands, buildings and farms and the contents, real and personal, thereof. The cost of such insurance shall be paid from the general funds of the county.

Acquiring and Using Real Property; Section 2305. Court Approval: Exceptions.—(a) The county commissioners may purchase, take by gift, devise or by the power of eminent domain, in accordance with the provisions of this act, such real property at the county seat or in such other places, as may be authorized by law, as they deem necessary for the purposes of a county courthouse, county jail, prison, workhouse, detention house or other county building, and in counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes, lands and buildings for the care of dependents and farms, either in acquisition of a building suitable for such purposes, or in the construction of a new building, or in the alteration, including enlargement, of an existing county building. purchase herein authorized shall be subject to the approval of the court of common pleas of the county as to purchase price, and no such contract shall bind the county, nor shall any conveyance be valid until the court has so approved the purchase price. In addition to such approval, any acquisition of lands and buildings for the care of dependents and farms shall be subject to approval of the Department of Public Welfare as to suitability.

- (b) The county commissioners may also use any real property at the county seat or elsewhere, as authorized by law, owned by the county, and deemed suitable by them for the purposes aforesaid, except such property as is bound by contract to another public use.
- (c) The county commissioners may provide for the grading, filling, draining, gardening and otherwise improving and maintaining of all lands for county buildings, and of lands and buildings in counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes for the care of dependents and farms, either by contract or by county employes, as they deem proper.
- (d) To the extent that any of the matters provided for herein are otherwise specifically provided for by law, with regard to any particular acquisitions of real property by counties, either by tax sales or by other purchases, this section shall not apply to such matters.

Section 8. The act of June 24, 1937 (P. L. 2017), Specific repeal. known as the "County Institution District Law," is repealed as to counties of the fourth, fifth and sixth classes.

Section 9. This act shall take effect January 1, 1962. Effective date.

Approved—The 19th day of September, A. D. 1961.

# DAVID L. LAWRENCE

### No. 639

### AN ACT

Amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P. L. 90), entitled "An act relating to alcoholic liquors, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto; regulating and restricting the manufacture, purchase, sale, possession, consumption, importation, transportation, furnishing, holding in bond, holding in storage, traffic in and use of alcoholic liquors, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages and the persons engaged or employed therein; defining the powers and duties of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board; providing for the establishment and operation of State liquor stores, for the payment of certain license fees to the respective municipalities and townships, for the abatement of certain nuisances and, in certain cases, for search and seizure without warrant; prescribing penalties and forfeitures; providing for local option, and repealing existing laws," removing the prohibition against Sunday sales of liquor or malt or brewed beverages by public service licensees.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Penn. Liquor Code. sylvania hereby enacts as follows: