

Bill No. 12 of 1947.

A BILL TO AMEND THE CHILD WELFARE ACT

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NOTE.

This Bill amends *The Child Welfare Act*, Chapter 8 of the Statutes of 1944.

Section 1 of the Bill amends paragraph (d) of section 8 which provides that the Home Investigating Committee shall "perform such other duties in relation to foster homes as may be assigned to it by the Commission", that is, by the Child Welfare Commission. The words now proposed to be struck out are considered too restrictive as to the duties to be assigned to the Committee.

Section 2 of the Bill changes the definition of "institution" contained in section 10 of the Act. The present definition excluded from the definition the private dwelling of a family, while the new definition is general and includes any house or building where three or more children are kept for compensation.

Section 3 of the Bill amends section 25 of the Act dealing with immigrant children. The present section provides that an organization or agent desiring to carry on the work of placing immigrant children in the Province must before placing any child in the Province deposit with the Minister the sum of five hundred dollars or security in that amount. The purpose of the amendment is to make it clear that this deposit must be made with respect to each child placed in the Province.

Section 4 of the Bill amends section 38 of the Act. This section provides that if an immigrant child, within one year after being placed in the Province, becomes a charge on a municipality or the Province, the organization or agent shall be liable for the cost of maintenance of the child. The purpose of the amendment is to strike out the limitation of one year and make the organization liable if the child becomes a charge at any time.

Section 5 of the Bill amends section 51 of the Act by inserting three new subsections at the beginning of the section. These new subsections provide for the licensing of institutions as defined in the amendment to section 10. Baby shelters are at present governed by *The Private Hospitals Act* and subject to license thereunder, but that Act is also being amended so that baby shelters will no longer be under it.

Section 6 of the Bill amends section 87 by enacting a new subsection (1). This section is in the portion of the Act dealing with the adoption of children. The present subsection (1) provides that any adult person may apply to a judge for an order of adoption of an unmarried minor. The purpose of the new subsection is to require a person wishing to adopt a child to apply in the first instance to the Child Welfare Commission which, if it approves the application, will submit the petition to a judge. It is further provided that no order of adoption shall be made except on the application of the Commission.

W. S. GRAY,  
*Legislative Counsel.*

*(This note does not form any part of the Bill but is offered in explanation of its provisions.)*

# BILL

No. 12 of 1947.

An Act to amend The Child Welfare Act.

(Assented to . . . , 1947).

**HIS MAJESTY**, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. *The Child Welfare Act*, being chapter 8 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1944, is hereby amended as to section 8 by striking out the words "in relation to foster homes" where the same occur in paragraph (d) thereof.

2. The said Act is further amended as to section 10 by striking out paragraph (h) thereof, and by substituting therefor the following:

"(h) 'Institution' means a house or other building or a part thereof where three or more children are kept for compensation, and includes a portion of a hospital set aside for that purpose;"

3. The said Act is further amended as to section 25 by adding immediately after the word "dollars", where the same occurs in subsection (1) thereof, the words "with respect to each child".

4. The said Act is further amended as to section 38 by striking out the words "within one year thereafter" where the same occur therein.

5. The said Act is further amended as to section 51,—

(a) by adding immediately at the beginning thereof the following new subsections:

"51.—(1) No person shall operate an institution without first having obtained a license so to do from the Commission.

"(2) The annual fee for such license shall be the sum of One Dollar.

"(3) The annual license shall expire on the thirty-first day of December of the year in which it is issued and shall state the maximum number of children to be kept in the institution at any one time.";

(b) by renumbering the present subsections (1) to (10) as subsections (4) to (13).

6. The said Act is further amended as to section 87 by striking out subsection (1) thereof and by substituting therefor the following:

"87.—(1) Any adult person being of the full age of twenty-one years wishing to adopt an unmarried minor as his child may apply to the Commission which, if it approves the application, will submit his petition for an order of adoption to a judge, and no order of adoption shall be made unless the petition is presented to the judge by the Commission."

7. The said Act is further amended as to section 89 by striking out subsection (2) thereof and by substituting therefor the following:

"(2) Copies of the petition and material shall be retained by the Commission."

8. This Act shall come into force on the day upon which it is assented to.

No. 12

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FOURTH SESSION  
TENTH LEGISLATURE

11 GEORGE VI

1947

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**BILL**

An Act to amend The Child  
Welfare Act.

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Received and read the

First time.....

Second time.....

Third time.....

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HON. DR. CROSS.

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