

Bill No. 48 of 1950.

A BILL TO AMEND THE HOSPITALS ACT.

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NOTE.

This Bill amends *The Hospitals Act*, being chapter 184 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1942.

Section 2 is amended by the addition of definitions of two new terms, namely, "ratepayer" and "standard ward hospitalization".

A new section 2*a* is added immediately after section 2 enabling the Minister to classify approved hospitals into groups according to the standard of services available in the hospital.

Several new sections are added immediately after section 3. The new section 3*a* enables the Minister to pay a hospitalization grant. This grant is payable to the board of any municipal hospital district that hospitalizes its ratepayers in a hospital operated by the board and to the board of any municipal hospital district or to the local authority of any municipality that has made arrangements for the hospitalization of its ratepayers by means of an agreement with an approved hospital. Such an agreement is subject to the approval of the Minister and it must provide for the hospitalization of ratepayers at a direct cost to the patient of one dollar or less per day for standard ward hospitalization and it must provide for a voluntary contract plan for hospitalization whereby its non-ratepayers may obtain standard ward hospitalization at a direct cost to the patient of one dollar or less per day. Where an agreement is entered into the hospitalization and services provided under the agreement must be equivalent to the hospitalization and services available to ratepayers of the municipal hospital district that operates the hospital.

Section 3*b* provides that the hospitalization grant may be paid on a *per diem* basis for each day of hospitalization received by a ratepayer or his dependants in the hospital operated by the municipal hospital district or the hospital with which the municipal hospital district board or the local authority has made an agreement. The section fixes the amount of the *per diem* grant which varies with the grouping of the hospital in which the hospitalization is received and according to the age of the patient. Hospitalization grants are to be paid out of moneys appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose.

Section 3*c* deals with the case of a ratepayer who receives hospitalization as an emergency admission or as medically

referred admission in a hospital other than the hospital operated by the municipal hospital district or the hospital with which his municipal hospital district board or his local authority has entered into an agreement. In such a case, if the local authority or the municipal hospital district which would have been responsible for his hospitalization pays on account of the hospitalization of the patient an amount equivalent to the cost of the hospitalization to which he would have been entitled if he had been hospitalized in the hospital operated by the municipal hospital district or the hospital with which his municipal hospital district board or his local authority had entered into an agreement, the Minister is authorized to pay to the local authority or the municipal hospital district, as the case may be, the usual *per diem* hospitalization grant in respect of such patient.

Section 3*d* provides that the grant shall not be paid in respect of a ratepayer whose hospitalization is being provided under *The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1948*, or under other legislation passed by the Province, or in respect of any persons or classes of persons who may be excluded by order in council.

Section 3*e* provides for cases where the *per diem* rate of grant may be reduced. This section provides that in a case where the municipal hospital district board or the local authority makes an agreement for hospitalization at a daily rate lower than the figures set out in the section the *per diem* hospitalization grant may be proportionately reduced. It also provides that the total amount of the *per diem* hospitalization grant in respect of patients hospitalized in any hospital may be reduced by the amount of any increase in the total sum that the Province pays for the hospitalization of pensioners and of maternity and indigent patients in that hospital.

Section 3*f* enables the Minister, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, to make regulations in connection with the administration or payment of the hospitalization grants.

Section 5(5) is amended. In cases of sudden emergent necessity the hospital is required to send a notice to the local authority within ten days of the date of admission of an indigent sick person. The amendment increases the time within which the notice can be sent from ten to twenty days.

The proviso to section 6(4) is amended by increasing the amount from two hundred to three hundred dollars. A similar change was made to section 6(4) and to section 7(2) in 1949 and the proviso is simply amended to conform with these provisions.

KENNETH A. MCKENZIE,  
*Acting Legislative Counsel.*

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

# BILL

No. 48 of 1950.

An Act to amend The Hospitals Act.

(Assented to \_\_\_\_\_, 1950.)

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

**1.** *The Hospitals Act*, being chapter 184 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1942, is hereby amended as to section 2,—

(a) by adding immediately after clause (*j*) the following new clause:

“(jj) ‘ratepayer’ means any person liable to pay taxes in respect of property or any person liable to deliver a share of the crop as rental on Provincial Government lands and includes the wife, dependent family and domestic female help of such a person;”;

(b) by adding immediately after clause (*k*) the following new clause:

“(l) ‘standard ward hospitalization’ means the bed accommodation provided to the patient when private room or semi-private room accommodation has not been requested, and includes the routine services such as meals, nursing care, drugs, medication and dressings ordinarily provided without extra charge.”.

**2.** The said Act is further amended by adding immediately after section 2 the following new heading and section:

**“Hospital Grouping.**

“**2a.** The Minister may classify approved hospitals into groups according to the standard of services available in the hospital and may change the grouping of any hospital when, in his opinion, such a change is indicated.”.

**3.** The said Act is further amended by adding immediately after section 3 the following new sections:

“**3a.**—(1) The Minister may pay a hospitalization grant,—

“(a) to the board of any municipal hospital district that hospitalizes its ratepayers in a hospital operated by the board; and

“(b) to the board of any municipal hospital district or to the local authority of any municipality,—

“(i) that has entered into an agreement approved by the Minister with the board of an approved hospital for the hospitalization of its ratepayers at a direct cost to the patient of one dollar or less per day for standard ward hospitalization; and

“(ii) that has provided a contract plan for hospitalization whereby its non-ratepayers may obtain standard ward hospitalization at a direct cost to the patient of one dollar or less per day.

“(2) Where a municipal hospital district board or the local authority of a municipality enters into an agreement for the hospitalization of any or all of its ratepayers with the board of a municipal hospital district that operates a hospital, the agreement shall provide that the hospitalization and services to be available to ratepayers of the municipal hospital district or local authority entering into the agreement is equivalent to the hospitalization and services available to ratepayers within the municipal hospital district that operates a hospital under the scheme adopted in that municipal hospital district.

“**3b.**—(1) The hospitalization grant may be paid on a *per diem* basis for each day of hospitalization received by a ratepayer in the hospital operated by the municipal hospital district or in the hospital with which the municipal hospital district board or the local authority has made an agreement, as the case may be.

“(2) The *per diem* grant to be paid in respect of any person three years of age or over who is hospitalized,—

“(a) in a group A hospital shall be two dollars and twenty-five cents;

“(b) in a group B hospital shall be two dollars;

“(c) in a group C hospital shall be one dollar and ninety cents;

“(d) in a group D hospital shall be one dollar and seventy-five cents;

“(e) in a group E hospital shall be one dollar and sixty-five cents.

“(3) The *per diem* grant to be paid in respect of any person under three years of age who is hospitalized shall be,—

“(a) fifty cents for a person under three months of age;

“(b) seventy-five cents for a person from three months to one year of age;

“(c) one dollar for a person from one year to three years of age.

“(4) The hospitalization grants authorized by this section shall be paid out of such moneys as may be appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose.

**3c.** In the case of a ratepayer who receives hospitalization,—

- “(a) as an emergency admission; or
- “(b) as a medically referred admission;

in an approved hospital, other than the hospital operated by the municipal hospital district or the hospital with which his municipal hospital district board or local authority has entered into an agreement, if the municipal hospital district or local authority which would have been responsible for his hospitalization pays on account of the hospitalization of such patient an amount equivalent to the cost of the standard ward hospitalization to which he would have been entitled in the hospital operated by the municipal hospital district, or in the hospital with which his municipal hospital district board or local authority has entered into an agreement, the Minister may pay to the municipal hospital district or to the local authority, as the case may be, the *per diem* hospitalization grant equivalent to the grant which would have been paid if the patient had been hospitalized in the hospital operated by the municipal hospital district or the hospital with which his municipal hospital district board or local authority has entered into an agreement.

“3d. The *per diem* grant shall not be paid, —

- “(a) in respect of any ratepayer when hospitalization is being provided under *The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1948*, or under any other legislation passed by the Province; or
- “(b) in respect of any persons or class of persons who may be excluded by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council from the classes of persons in respect of whom grants are payable.

“3e.—(1) In any case where the municipal hospital district board or the local authority enters into an agreement with an approved hospital in respect of persons three years of age or over at a daily rate lower than,—

- “(a) four dollars and fifty cents per day in the case of a hospital in group A;
- “(b) four dollars per day in the case of a hospital in group B;
- “(c) three dollars and seventy-five cents per day in the case of a hospital in group C;
- “(d) three dollars and fifty cents per day in the case of a hospital in group D;
- “(e) three dollars and twenty-five cents per day in the case of a hospital in group E;

the *per diem* grant shall be reduced in proportion to the reduction so obtained.

“(2) In any case where the municipal hospital district board or the local authority enters into an agreement with an approved hospital in respect of persons under three years of age at a daily rate lower than,—

- “(a) one dollar for a person under three months of age;
- “(b) one dollar and fifty cents for a person from three months to one year of age;

“(c) two dollars for a person from one year to three years of age;

the *per diem* grant shall be reduced in proportion to the reduction so obtained.

“(3) In the event of an increase in the *per diem* amount the Province pays to any hospital for the hospitalization of pensioners and of maternity and indigent patients in that hospital, the Minister may reduce the total amount of the *per diem* hospitalization grant paid to any municipal hospital district or local authority in respect of ratepayers hospitalized in that hospital by the amount of such increase.

“3f. The Minister, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, may make any regulations deemed necessary or advisable in connection with the administration or payment of the *per diem* hospitalization grant.”.

4. The said Act is further amended as to section 5, subsection (5) by striking out the word “ten” and by substituting the word “twenty”.

5. The said Act is further amended as to section 6, subsection (4) by striking out the word “two”, where it occurs in the proviso thereto and by substituting the word “three”.

6. This Act shall come into force on the first day of June, 1950.

No. 48

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FIRST SESSION  
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

14 GEORGE VI

1950

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**BILL**

An Act to amend The Hospitals  
Act.

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Received and read the

First time .....

Second time .....

Third time .....

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HON. DR. CROSS.