

Bill No. 23 of 1951.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH UNITS.

NOTE.

This Bill enacts a new Act to be known as "*The Health Unit Act*".

Any municipality that wishes to be included in a health unit may pass a resolution to this effect and submit it to the Minister. Upon the recommendation of the Minister, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may constitute any area a health unit and the unit is to be divided into wards. Provision is made for the subsequent alteration of the boundaries of any health unit or of any ward of a health unit.

The Bill provides that the health units will be administered by a board on which each ward is represented by one board member. The council of a municipality within which a ward is located is required to appoint a member of the council to be the member of the board representing that ward. Where a ward contains two or more municipalities, the council representing the greatest number of residents in the ward appoints one of its councillors to represent the ward. Each board member holds office during the pleasure of the council that appointed him until he ceases to be a councillor. The board elects one of its number as chairman and appoints a secretary-treasurer. The board is required to meet at least once every three months. The powers of the board to administer the health unit and to provide the health services are set out in detail in the Act.

The board of the health unit is authorized to employ staff, consisting of a medical officer, nurses, sanitary inspectors, etc. The number of persons employed is determined by the population of the health unit in the manner set out in the Act. Additional members of the staff may be employed but no grant is payable in respect of their salaries. Staff appointments, in respect of which grants are payable are subject to the approval of the Minister and the appointments are held during the pleasure of the board. Staff salaries are required to be in accordance with the salaries contained in a schedule recommended from time to time by the Provincial Government salary survey committee and approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. A board may pay salaries in excess of those approved in the schedule but the excess salaries are not considered in calculating the amount of the grant or the statutory de-

ductions under *The Public Service Pension Act*. *The Public Service Pension Act* is made applicable to the staff of a health unit.

The board is required to prepare a budget of its estimated expenditure for each year and to submit the same to the Minister for his approval.

The Department of Health pays sixty per cent of the cost of all equipment, the purchase of which is approved by the Department, sixty per cent of the approved salaries of the staff and sixty per cent of all other operating costs approved by the Minister. The contributing councils pay the balance in proportion to their respective populations served by the health unit. A copy of the annual financial statement is to be submitted to the Minister and the books and accounts of the board may be inspected at any time by the Provincial Auditor.

The Bill provides for the appointment of a director of health units by the provincial Department of Health who will assist and advise boards in carrying out their duties. The Lieutenant Governor in Council is given power to make regulations under the Act to facilitate its administration and the carrying out of its purposes.

Existing health units organized under *The Public Health Act* continue to operate under that Act until such time as they are reconstituted for operation under this Act by an order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Any health unit may be dis-established at any time by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The Bill does not in any way affect the responsibility of municipalities for their indigent sick residents and a section is included to make this clear.

The Bill comes into force on the day upon which it is assented to.

KENNETH A. MCKENZIE,
Legislative Counsel.

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

BILL

No. 23 of 1951.

An Act to Provide for the Constitution and Establishment of Health Units.

(Assented to _____, 1951.)

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

Short Title.

1. This Act may be cited as "*The Health Unit Act*". Short title

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—
- (a) "board" means the board of the health unit appointed under the provisions of this Act; Interpretation
"board"
 - (b) "contributing council" means the council of a municipality any portion of which is included in a health unit; "contributing council"
 - (c) "council" means the council of a municipality, and in the case of an improvement district or a special area, the Minister of Municipal Affairs or such person as he may designate; "council"
 - (d) "Department" means the Department of Public Health; "Department"
 - (e) "health unit" means an area of the Province that has been established as a health unit under the provisions of this Act; "health unit"
 - (f) "Minister" means the Minister of Health; "Minister"
 - (g) "municipal Act" means, in relation to any particular municipality, the Act under which the municipality is constituted and governed; "municipal Act"
 - (h) "municipality" means a town, village, municipal district, improvement district, special area, and a city with a population not exceeding fifty thousand. "municipality"

Organization.

3.—(1) Any municipality that wishes to be included in whole or in part within a health unit may pass a resolution to that effect and submit the same to the Minister. Inclusion of municipality in health unit

(2) Upon the recommendation of the Minister, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may constitute any area a health unit. Constitution of health unit

Establishment of boundaries and division of health unit (3) The order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council constituting a health unit shall,—
 (a) establish the boundaries thereof;
 (b) divide the health unit into wards.

Alteration of boundaries 4.—(1) The board, or any contributing council, may pass a resolution requesting the alteration of the boundaries of a health unit or of any ward of a health unit and may submit the same to the Minister.

(2) Upon the recommendation of the Minister, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may alter the boundaries of the health unit or of any ward of the health unit by adding land to or detaching land from the same at any time.

The Board.

Health unit administered by board 5.—(1) Each health unit shall be administered by a board.

Ward represented by board member (2) Each ward shall be represented by one board member.

Contributing council appoints member to represent ward 6.—(1) Where a ward is entirely within one municipality, the contributing council of that municipality shall appoint a member of the council to be the member of the board representing that ward.

(2) Where a ward contains all or part of two or more municipalities, the contributing council representing the greatest number of residents in the ward shall appoint a member of the council to be the member of the board representing that ward.

Term of office of member representing ward (3) Each board member appointed under this section shall hold office during the pleasure of the council that appointed him until he ceases to be a councillor.

Remuneration and mileage payable to board members 7.—(1) The board may pass a resolution providing for payment to the members thereof of a sum not exceeding eight dollars per day for each member for each meeting, and ten cents per mile for each mile necessarily travelled in coming to and returning from a meeting of the board.

(2) Every such resolution shall be submitted for the approval of the Minister.

Chairman and secretary of board 8.—(1) The board, at its first meeting in each year, shall,—

(a) elect one of its number as chairman;

(b) appoint a secretary-treasurer.

Number of board meetings (2) The board shall meet at least once every three months.

9. The board shall,—

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) provide the office accommodation and equipment required for the work of the unit; (b) determine the location of the office or offices for the staff; (c) appoint the staff; (d) appoint a member of the staff to be supervisor of the work of the staff; (e) provide transportation for the staff; (f) draft a schedule of services to be provided by the health unit under the provisions of this Act; (g) do all things necessary to administer the health unit and to provide the services contained in the schedule in accordance with the provisions of this Act. | Board shall,—
provide office accommodation and equipment
determine location of offices
appoint staff
appoint supervisor
provide transportation
draft schedule of services
administer health unit |
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The Staff.**10.—(1) The board may employ,—**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a full-time medical officer for a population of twenty thousand or more; (b) a part-time medical officer for a population of less than twenty thousand; (c) a full-time nurse for each ten thousand of population within a town or city; (d) a full-time nurse for each six thousand of population outside a town or city; (e) a full-time sanitary inspector for each twenty thousand of population; (f) a part-time sanitary inspector for a population of less than twenty thousand; (g) a full-time stenographer-technician for each twenty thousand of population or major part thereof; (h) a full-time or part-time secretary-treasurer. | Health unit personnel |
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(2) The board may employ additional members of the staff in excess of those designated in subsection (1), but no grant shall be paid by the Department in respect of the salaries of the additional staff members.

11.—(1) The appointment of each member of the staff in respect of whom the Department will pay a grant is subject to the approval of the Minister.

(2) Each member of the staff shall hold his appointment during the pleasure of the board.

12.—(1) Each member of the staff shall be paid a salary in accordance with the schedule recommended from time to time by the salary survey committee of the Provincial Government and approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(2) The board may pay salaries in excess of those approved under subsection (1), but such excess salaries shall not be considered in calculating the amount of the grant or the statutory deductions under *The Public Service Pension Act*.

Staff appointment subject to approval of Minister
 Salary survey committee
 Excess salaries not considered in calculating pension deductions

Application
of *The Public
Service
Pension Act*

13.—(1) *The Public Service Pension Act* applies to the staff of a health unit employed under the provisions of this Act.

(2) Where a person is employed part-time by each of two or more health units and the total of such part-time employment by health units is equivalent to full-time continuous employment by one health unit such person shall be deemed to be an employee within the meaning of *The Public Service Pension Act* and statutory deductions shall be made in respect of the part of his salary that he receives from each health unit.

Pension
deductions

(3) The statutory deductions directed by section 5 of *The Public Service Pension Act* shall be made and paid into the General Revenue Fund by the board in lieu of the Provincial Treasurer at the times provided in the said section.

(4) On or before the last day of each month a contribution shall be made by the board of each health unit to the General Revenue Fund of an amount equivalent to the total amount contributed by the staff of the health unit in that month.

Financial Provisions.

Budget

14.—(1) The board shall prepare a budget of its estimated expenditure for each year.

(2) The budget shall be submitted to the Minister for his approval.

Expenses
payable by
Department

15. The Department shall pay to each health unit out of moneys appropriated for that purpose by the Legislature,—

- (a) sixty per cent of all the cost of equipment, the purchase of which is approved by the Department;
- (b) sixty per cent of the salaries approved under section 12 of each member of the staff appointed under section 10, subsection (1) whose appointment is approved by the Minister;
- (c) sixty per cent of all other operating costs that are approved by the Minister.

Expenses
payable by
contributing
councils

16.—(1) The contributing councils shall pay the balance of the expenses of the health unit.

(2) Each contributing council shall pay the proportion of the expenses that its population served by the health unit bears to the total population served by the health unit.

(3) Population figures shall be based on the latest quinquennial census.

Financial
statement

17.—(1) The board shall prepare a financial statement at the end of each year and shall forward a copy of the same to the Minister.

(2) The books and accounts of the board may be inspected at any time by the Provincial Auditor. Inspection of books and accounts

General Provisions.

18. Subject to *The Public Service Act, 1947*, the Minister may appoint a director of health units to assist and advise the boards in the carrying out of their duties. Appointment of director of health unit

19.—(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make such regulations as may be considered necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. Regulations

(2) Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,— Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations,—

- (a) governing the handling of funds by health units, the collection of contributions due from municipalities, and the collection of accounts outstanding; governing handling of funds
- (b) governing the conditions of employment of the staff; governing conditions of employment
- (c) requiring the submission of annual and quarterly and other reports; and requiring reports
- (d) providing for such other matters and things not inconsistent with this Act, as are deemed necessary to facilitate its administration and to enable the proper carrying out of its purposes. to facilitate administration

20.—(1) Each existing health unit organized under *The Public Health Act* shall continue to operate under that Act until such time as it can be reconstituted for operation under this Act by an order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Reconstitution of existing health unit

(2) An order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council under subsection (1),—

- (a) may provide for any matter or thing deemed necessary or advisable to provide for or facilitate the reconstitution of an existing health unit to operate in compliance with this Act;
- (b) shall designate the effective date upon which the health unit shall cease to operate under the provisions of *The Public Health Act* and shall commence to operate under the provisions of this Act.

21. A health unit set up under this Act or any other Act of the Province dealing with health units, may be dis-established at any time by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Dis-establishment of health unit

22. The cost of transportation, hospitalization, medical care and attention, drugs and dressings not provided by the health unit staff, but recommended by the staff and approved by the board for an indigent sick resident of a health Municipality responsible for expenses incurred by indigent sick person

unit area shall be the responsibility of the municipality of which he is a resident, as provided for under the municipal Acts, *The Public Health Act* and *The Hospitals Act*.

Authority of council under municipal Act unlimited **23.** Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority granted to any council under its municipal Act.

Coming into force **24.** This Act shall come into force on the day upon which it is assented to.

No. 23

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
15 GEORGE VI
1951

BILL

An Act to Provide for the Constitu-
tion and Establishment of
Health Units.

Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time

HON. DR. CROSS.
