

Bill No. 42 of 1951.

A BILL TO AMEND THE HOSPITALS ACT.

NOTE.

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

Section 2, which is the interpretation section, is amended by the addition of a new clause (*bb*) immediately after clause (*b*) defining the expression "contract holder".

Section 2, clause (*jj*), which is the definition of "ratepayer" is struck out and a new clause substituted. The word "real" is added before the word "property" so that the word "ratepayer" means a person liable to pay taxes in respect of real property. The word "wife" is also changed to the word "spouse". Thus, if the ratepayer happened to be a woman the definition would include her husband in the same way that the wife of a ratepayer is included when the ratepayer is a man. These changes were approved by O.C. 816-50 subject to the enactment of this amendment retroactive to the first day of June, 1950. The definition is further extended to include the surviving spouse, dependent family and domestic female help of a deceased ratepayer whose estate is liable to pay taxes. The effect of this is that when a ratepayer dies his wife and dependents are not deprived of the privilege of dollar a day hospitalization so long as the ratepayer's estate is liable to pay taxes.

Sections 3*a* to 3*f* are struck out and new sections are substituted in their stead. Section 3*a* is unchanged. Section 3*b*, subsection (1) is unchanged. Subsection (2) is new and authorizes the payment of grants on a per diem basis for hospitalization received by contract holders. The conditions of the payment of the grant are set out in the subsection. Subsection (3) is similar to the present subsection (2), except that it applies to the hospitalization of persons who are sixteen years of age or over rather than to all persons over the age of three years. The new subsection (4) sets out the grants payable in respect of the hospitalization of persons under sixteen years of age. Subsections (5) and (6) are new and deal with the per diem grants in respect of contract holders in cases where the conditions prescribed by subsection (2) are not met. Subsection (7) is similar to the present subsection (4).

Sections 3*c* and 3*e* are similar to the present sections except that they are amended to include references to contract

holders and to make the corresponding change from three to sixteen years of age that was made in section 3*b*.

Section 3*f* is unchanged.

The heading "Incurables" preceding section 7 is struck out. This word was struck out of the section itself by an amendment in 1941 and is no longer properly descriptive of the persons to whom the section refers.

The Bill comes into force on the day upon which it is assented to, except for the amendment to the definition of "ratepayer" which is deemed to have been in force at all times on and after the 1st day of June, 1950, and for the new subsections (2) and (5) of section 3*b* providing for grants in respect of the hospitalization of contract holders which comes into force on the 1st day of July, 1951.

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. 42 of 1951.

An Act to amend The Hospitals Act.

(Assented to _____, 1951.)

HIS 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.

2. Section 2 is amended,—

Section 2
amended

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

“(bb) ‘contract holder’ means a resident non-ratepayer who has entered into a subsisting contract with a municipal hospital district or a local authority to obtain standard ward hospitalization at a direct cost to him of one dollar or less per day, and includes the spouse and dependent family of a contract holder;”;

“contract
holder”

(b) by striking out clause (jj) and by substituting the following:

“(jj) ‘ratepayer’ means any person liable to pay taxes in respect of real property, and any person liable to deliver a share of the crop as rental on provincial government lands, and includes the spouse, dependent family and domestic female help of a ratepayer and the surviving spouse, dependent family and domestic female help of a deceased ratepayer whose estate is liable to pay the taxes or deliver the share of the crop for which the ratepayer was liable;”.

“ratepayer”

3. Sections 3a to 3f inclusive are struck out and the following are substituted:

New sections
3a to 3f
inclusive

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

Hospital
grants,—
to board
operating
hospital

“(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,—

to board or
local author-
ity providing
hospitaliza-
tion by
agreement

“(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 resident non-ratepayers may obtain standard ward hospitalization at a direct cost to the patient of one dollar or less per day.

Equivalent hospitalization and services to be provided under agreement

“(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.

Payment of hospitalization grant

“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.

When hospitalization grant payable

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

“(a) the cost of the contract to the contract holder does not exceed such amount as may be fixed from time to time by regulations;

“(b) the contract holder is resident within the boundaries of the municipal hospital district or local authority with which he has entered into the contract;

“(c) the municipal hospital district or local authority providing the contract plan for hospitalization authorizes the purchase of contracts by non-ratepayers during the months of January or July of each year with benefits becoming available immediately upon purchase of the contract.

Rate of hospitalization grant

“(3) The *per diem* grant to be paid in respect of any person sixteen 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.
- “(4) The *per diem* grant to be paid in respect of any person under sixteen years of age who is hospitalized,—
- “(a) in a group A hospital shall be one dollar and seventy-five cents;
- “(b) in a group B hospital shall be one dollar and fifty cents;
- “(c) in a group C hospital shall be one dollar and forty cents;
- “(d) in a group D hospital shall be one dollar and twenty-five cents;
- “(e) in a group E hospital shall be one dollar and fifteen cents.
- “(5) In any case where the cost of the contract to the contract holder exceeds the amount fixed by regulation under subsection (2), clause (a), a grant may be paid to the board of the municipal hospital district or to the local authority of the municipality, as the case may be, at the end of each calendar year equivalent to the total cost of providing standard ward hospitalization to contract holders as determined by the group basic ward rate of the hospital concerned after deducting therefrom,—
- “(a) the revenue resulting from the one dollar per day payable by the patients; and
- “(b) the revenue from the sale of contracts.
- “(6) In no case shall the grant payable under subsection (5) exceed the *per diem* grant mentioned in subsections (3) and (4). Hospitalization grant limited
- “(7) The hospitalization grants authorized by this section shall be paid out of such moneys as may be appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose. Appropriation
- “3c. In the case of a ratepayer or contract holder who receives hospitalization,— Hospitalization of emergency or medically referred admissions
- “(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.

Hospitaliza-
tion grant
not payable
in certain
cases

“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 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.

Reduction
of *per diem*
grant

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

“(a) three dollars and fifty cents per day in the case of a hospital in group A;

“(b) three dollars per day in the case of a hospital in group B;

“(c) two dollars and seventy-five cents per day in the case of a hospital in group C;

“(d) two dollars and fifty cents per day in the case of a hospital in group D;

“(e) two 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.

Municipality
defined

“3f. (1) For purposes of this section,—

“(a) municipality includes a municipal hospital district;

“(b) a municipal hospital district that operates its own hospital shall be deemed to be a municipality that has entered into an agreement with that hospital.

“(2) Where a person who received hospitalization is a ratepayer in two or more municipalities, each of which has entered into an agreement with the hospital under section 3a,— Account for hospitalization

“(a) if such person is a resident of one of such municipalities,—

“(i) the hospital shall render its account only to the municipality of which he is a resident, which municipality shall be responsible for the hospitalization pursuant to its agreement; and

“(ii) the Minister shall pay the grant to that municipality;

“(b) if such person is not resident in any of such municipalities he shall designate to the hospital which municipality he desires to be responsible for the hospitalization pursuant to its agreement; and

“(i) the hospital shall render its account only to that municipality; and

“(ii) the Minister shall pay the grant to that municipality.

“3g. 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.” Regulations

4. The heading “Incurables.” appearing immediately before section 7 is struck out. Heading struck out

5. This Act shall come into force on the day upon which it is assented to, except for,— Coming into force

(a) clause (b) of section 2 which shall be deemed to have been in force at all times on and after the first day of June, 1950; and

(b) that portion of section 3 enacting subsections (2) and (5) of section 3b which said subsections shall come into force on the first day of July, 1951.

No. 42.

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

15 GEORGE VI

1951

BILL

An Act to amend The Hospitals Act.

Received and read the

First time

Second time

Third time

HON. DR. CROSS.
