

Bill No. 70 of 1952.

A BILL TO AMEND THE HOSPITALS ACT.

NOTE.

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

The majority of the amendments contained in this Bill are made for the purpose of providing for an increase in the hospitalization grants payable to municipalities and municipal hospital districts. The amount of the grant which is at present fixed by the Act is equal to fifty per cent of the former basic standard ward rate in approved hospitals. Increased costs of providing hospital services resulted in an increase in the basic standard ward rate. The amendments provide that the hospitalization grant shall be fifty per cent of the standard ward rate as set by regulation after one dollar per day has been deducted. The Act at present designates the number of dollars and cents of grant that will be paid in each case whereas under the amendment the amount of the grant becomes a fixed percentage of the standard ward rate as set by regulation, whatever that might be. The sections amended for this purpose are section 3a, subsection (2), section 3b, subsections (2) to (6) inclusive, section 3g; section 3e is repealed for the same purpose and section 3d is amended to conform.

The increased grants were authorized by order in council subject to the enactment of this validating legislation. The order in council was effective the first of January, 1952 so these particular sections of the Bill are made retroactive to that date.

Section 3 is amended by striking out subsection (1) and substituting a new subsection. The subsection now authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to pay to an approved hospital a *per diem* allowance in respect of each person hospitalized. The latter part of the subsection authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to exclude certain persons or classes of persons from the operation of this section. The effect of the amendment is to enable the Lieutenant Governor in Council, in his discretion, to exclude designated hospitals from the operation of this section so that such hospitals would not receive the *per diem* allowance. A similar amendment is made to section 3b.

Section 3d lists the cases where a hospitalization grant is not payable. A new clause (c) is added to this section enumerating another case where a grant is not payable, namely, in respect of the hospitalization of a person who, in

the opinion of the medical inspector of hospitals, does not require active treatment. Clause (a) is also amended so as to make the clause apply generally rather than to ratepayers solely.

Section 6, subsection (4) is amended. This subsection provides that no local authority is liable to pay on account of the care or treatment of an indigent sick person more than three hundred dollars in any one year. The effect of the amendment is to increase the liability of the local authority from three to four hundred dollars.

Except as otherwise provided, the Bill comes into force upon assent.

J. W. RYAN,
Acting Legislative Counsel.

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

BILL

No. 70 of 1952.

An Act to amend The Hospitals Act.

(Assented to _____, 1952.)

HER 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 3 is amended by striking out subsection (1) and by substituting the following: Section 3 amended

"3. (1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may pay to an approved hospital which has filed with the Department the returns hereinafter provided for a *per diem* allowance in respect of each person admitted to the hospital or treated therein, except in respect of any hospital or of any person or of any class of persons that, in the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, may be excluded by order from the operation of this section." Allowance to approved hospitals

3. Section 3a is amended by striking out subsection (2). Section 3a amended

4. Section 3b is amended,—

(a) by striking out clause (c) of subsection (2) and by substituting the following: Section 3b amended

"(c) the municipal hospital district or local authority providing the contract plan for hospitalization authorizes the purchase of contracts by non-ratepayers under which contracts benefits become available on the first day of January or on the first day of July of each year.";

(b) by striking out subsections (3), (4), (5) and (6) and by substituting the following:

"(3) The amount of the hospitalization grant to be paid to a municipality or to a municipal hospital district that has entered into an agreement with an approved hospital shall be fifty per cent of the standard ward rate as set by regulation after one dollar per day has been deducted. Amount of hospitalization grant

"(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3), in a case where the rate to be paid for standard ward care as fixed by an approved agreement is less than the standard ward rate set by the regulations, the amount of the hospitalization grant to be paid shall be fifty per cent of the rate fixed in the approved agreement.

“(5) The amount of the hospitalization grant to be paid to a municipal hospital district operating its own hospital shall be fifty per cent of the standard ward rate as set by regulation after one dollar per day has been deducted.

“(6) 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 hospitalization grant may be paid to the board of a 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 to the municipal hospital district or municipality, whichever the case may be, of providing standard ward care to contract holders, after deducting therefrom the revenue received from the sale of contracts.

“(7) In no case shall the grant payable under subsection (6) exceed the hospitalization grant mentioned in subsections (3), (4) and (5).”;

- (c) by renumbering the present subsection (7) as subsection (8).

Section 3d
amended

5. Section 3d is amended,—

- (a) by striking out the words “*per diem*” and by substituting the word “hospitalization”;
- (b) by striking out the word “ratepayer” where it occurs in clause (a) and by substituting the word “person”;
- (c) by adding immediately after clause (b) the following new clause:

“(c) in respect of any person who, in the opinion of the medical inspector of hospitals, does not require active treatment in an approved hospital.”.

Section 3e
repealed

6. Section 3e is repealed.

Section 3g
amended

7. Section 3g is amended by striking out the words “*per diem*”.

Section 6
amended

8. Section 6 is amended by striking out the word “three”, wherever it occurs in subsection (4) and the proviso, and by substituting the word “four”.

Coming
into force

9. This Act shall come into force on the day upon which it is assented to and upon so coming into force section 3, clauses (a) and (b) of section 4 and sections 6 and 7 shall be deemed to have been in force at all times on and after the first day of January, 1952.

No. 70

FIFTH SESSION
ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE

1 Elizabeth II

1952

BILL

An Act to amend The Hospitals Act.

Received and read the

First time

Second time.....

Third time.....

HON. DR. CROSS.
