

THE NON-TAXPAYERS MEDICAL RELIEF ACT.

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NOTE.

This Bill provides for the relief of indigent persons, who are not themselves tax-payers, in any municipal district which votes itself into the medical relief district and in improvement districts.

The relief is given through a Board, which collects a varying sum of money from each district, each district furnishing such sum either in all or in part by means of a tax upon wage-earners who are not otherwise tax-payers.

WALTER S. SCOTT,  
*Legislative Counsel.*

*(This note does not form any part of the Bill and is offered merely as a partial explanation of some of its provisions.)*

# BILL

No. of 1925

An Act to Provide for the Care of the Indigent Sick  
Non-taxpayers of the Province.

(Assented to , 1925.)

**H**IS 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 Non-taxpayers Medical Relief Act.*"

## INTERPRETATION.

**2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

- (a) "Council" shall include the council of a municipal district, and in the case of an improvement district, the Minister of Municipal Affairs;
- (b) "Indigent" shall mean a person who is actually destitute of means from his own resources of obtaining necessary medical attendance;
- (c) "Minister" shall mean the Minister of Public Health;
- (d) "Municipality" shall include municipal districts and improvement districts;
- (e) "Non-taxpayer" shall mean any person who is not liable for the payment of ordinary municipal taxes upon land;
- (f) "Proprietary elector" shall include every person who is entitled to vote on a debenture by-law;
- (g) "Secretary-treasurer" shall include the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs in the case of an improvement district;
- (h) "Wage-earner" shall include any person contracting for the performance of mining operations for any person engaged in the industry of mining.

**3.** This Act shall only apply to the medical relief district when formed as hereinafter set out.

## ORGANIZATION OF DISTRICT.

**4.** The council of every municipal district within the Province shall submit to the proprietary electors of the district the question as to whether the municipal district should or should not be brought within the medical relief district.

**5.** Such question shall be submitted to the said electors upon the third Monday in July immediately following the passing of this Act.

**6.** All the electors of the municipal district who would be entitled to vote upon a debenture by-law if it were then being submitted to them, shall be entitled to vote on the said question.

**7.** Immediately following the voting on the question as hereinbefore provided for, the secretary-treasurer of each municipal district so voting shall forthwith forward to the Minister a statement showing whether or not the majority of the voters voting upon the question have voted in favour of the municipal district being brought within the medical relief district.

**8.** The Minister may at any time and after endeavouring to ascertain by whatever means seem suitable to him, the feelings of the inhabitants of any improvement district as to the advisability of bringing such district within the medical relief district, at his discretion, bring such improvement district within the said medical relief district.

**9.** In the event of fifty per cent. of the municipal districts and improvement districts within the Province voting in favour of coming within the medical relief district, or being brought within such district, the Minister may by order, notice of which shall be forwarded to each of the said municipal districts and published in *The Alberta Gazette*, establish such municipal districts and improvement districts as "The Medical Relief District."

**10.** The council of any municipal district which has voted against coming within the medical relief district, and the council of any municipal district which may be formed after that date may at any time submit in a similar manner the said question.

#### DISORGANIZATION OF DISTRICT.

**11.—(1)** At any time after the expiration of five years from the establishment of the medical relief district any of the municipal districts constituting the same may with the approval of a majority of the proprietary electors actually voting thereon, withdraw from the medical relief district upon such terms as the Minister may deem just.

(2) If at any time less than the said fifty per cent. of the municipal districts and improvement districts remain in the medical relief district, the Minister shall have power at his discretion to wind up the affairs of the board and his decision shall be final in regard to all matters connected therewith.

## ORGANIZATION OF BOARD.

**12.** This Act shall be administered by such board or persons as the Lieutenant Governor in Council may nominate thereunto, and such board or persons shall have all such powers and duties as may be assigned to it or them by him.

## FORMATION OF HEALTH FUND.

**13.** For the purposes of providing medical and surgical treatment for the indigent non-taxpayers living within the medical relief district, a health fund shall be formed as is hereinafter set out.

**14.** The board shall ascertain as nearly as possible the amount of the annual sum which would be sufficient to provide the care and treatment above spoken of for the said indigent sick persons and shall, having reference to the assessed value of the properties in the different municipalities of the medical relief district, the populations of such municipalities and such other factors as may seem good to them or as they may be directed to consider by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, apportion to each municipality the sum of money which, in the opinion of the board, such municipality should equitably bear.

**15.** The council of each municipality shall include such sum in its estimates and raise the same by taxation as a part of the sum necessary for the general municipal purposes of the municipal district or the improvement district as the case may be.

**16.—(1)** Any council may fix a minimum tax to be paid per month by every wage-earner in the municipality who pays no other municipal tax.

(2) Such tax shall not exceed one dollar per month.

(3) Such tax shall fall due on the first day of each month.

**17.—(1)** Every employer employing persons at a wage within the municipality shall furnish the secretary-treasurer of the municipality with a list of the names of all persons in his employment who are living in the municipality.

(2) Every employer failing to comply with the provisions of the next preceding subsection shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding fifty dollars and costs for each such offence.

**18.** Every employer shall deduct from the first payment made in each month by him to any employee the amount of such tax and shall forward the same to the secretary-treasurer of the municipality at such times as may be directed by regulations made under the provisions of this Act.

**19.** Any employer who fails to make the deduction hereinbefore directed, and to forward the amount of such deduction as hereinbefore directed, shall be liable, upon summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars and the amount of such fine shall be paid to the secretary-treasurer, who, in the event of the same not being paid within one fortnight of its imposition, may levy the amount of same by distress and sale of the goods and chattels of the employer in default, in the same manner as the goods and chattels of a person against whom taxes are assessed may be distrained, and all costs incurred by reason of the proceedings leading to the imposition of the fine or of enforcing the payment thereof.

**20.** Every council of a municipality shall pay to the board on demand the amounts required by it from time to time for health purposes: provided, however, that the total of the amounts demanded shall not exceed the total contained in the notice transmitted by the board to the municipality.

**21.** Any person, bank or corporation lending any sum to a municipality for the alleged purpose of meeting a demand of the board, shall not be bound to establish the necessity for borrowing the same, nor see to the payment by the municipality into the said health fund, nor as to the payment out thereof.

**22.**—(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may, at any time after the passing of this Act, advance to the board out of the general revenue fund, a sum of five thousand dollars for expenses which will necessarily be incurred prior to the receipt of any money from the municipalities, and the said amount shall be secured in such way as seems good to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(2) The Lieutenant Governor in Council may advance to the board such sum of money out of the general revenue fund, not in excess of . . . . . dollars to defray expenses of the care and treatment of indigent sick non-taxpayers until moneys can be collected therefor from the municipalities.

**23.** The Minister may by regulation prescribe—

- (a) dates on or by which returns are to be made by employers;
- (b) the time or times at which the taxes deducted by the employer are to be forwarded by him;
- (c) distinguish between fixed employment, casual employment, temporary employment, employment by persons not permanently resident in the municipality, or any two or more of them and fix different times for forwarding the tax;

- (d) provide for the collection of taxes in improvement districts by whatever machinery may seem convenient;
- (e) exempt any employment from the provisions of this Act;
- (f) define the term "wage-earner" by reference to the number of days worked in a month, or the nature of the employment, or any other factor in the employment, and change such definition from time to time;
- (g) fix a minimum payment from which the tax can be deducted or a total sum after the payment of which the tax must be deducted;
- (h) make any other regulations ancillary to the main object of the Act, viz., the collection of a tax for health purposes from wage-earners in a municipality.

(2) All such regulations when made shall have the same force and effect as if set out in this Act, but shall be laid upon the table of the Legislative Assembly at its first session after the making thereof, and if not so laid, shall cease to be of any force and effect whatsoever.

**24.** From and after such day as may be fixed with that intent by the Lieutenant Governor in Council no municipality within the medical relief district shall be liable for the medical care and treatment of its indigent sick non-tax-payers.

**25.** This Act shall come into force upon proclamation.

No.

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FIFTH SESSION  
FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
15 GEORGE V  
1925

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**BILL**

An Act to Provide for the Care of  
the Indigent Sick Non-taxpayers  
of the Province.

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Received and read the

First time.....

Second time.....

Third time.....

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HON. MR. HOADLEY.

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EDMONTON:  
J. W. JEFFERY, KING'S PRINTER  
A.D. 1925