

Bill No. 40 of 1932.

A BILL TO AMEND THE HOSPITALS ACT.

NOTE.

Section 2 of the Bill amends the existing provisions with regard to the liability of a local authority for the hospital charges in respect of its indigent sick residents when a resident is received into a hospital without a written order, and in cases of urgent and sudden necessity upon the Superintendent or Medical Officer of the hospital giving a certificate to that effect.

Section 3 of the Bill amends the existing provisions with reference to the liability of the local authority for the hospital treatment of its indigent residents.

The amendments made by sections 2 and 3 are made retroactive to the twenty-eighth day of March, 1922, that being the date upon which the section which is now amended was originally passed.

Section 4 of the Bill defines the liability of a local authority which has a hospital contract in respect of indigents cared for in a hospital other than the contracting hospital, and fixes the amount at the public ward rate or the rate of \$2.50 per day, whichever is the lesser.

Section 5 of the Bill enables the Minister to enter into agreements with extra-provincial hospitals for the hospitalization of indigent sick persons who are residents of a hospital district in Alberta upon other Provinces making similar reciprocal provisions.

The section further empowers the Minister to enter into agreement with the board of any hospital for the provision of hospital facilities for tuberculosis cases and to enter into agreements with any persons upon such terms and conditions as he may think fit for the reception of specific cases of tuberculosis, and provides that the liability of the local authority for the care and reception of any tuberculous person received into a hospital, or any other place under an agreement made pursuant to this section, shall not exceed an amount which would have been payable if such person had been a patient in the Sanatorium.

R. ANDREW SMITH,
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. 40 of 1932.

An Act to amend The Hospitals Act.

(Assented to _____, 1932.)

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

1. This Act may be cited as "*The Hospitals Act Amendment Act, 1932.*"

2.—(1) *The Hospitals Act*, being chapter 60 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta, 1922, is hereby amended as to section 6 thereof by striking out subsection (5) thereof and by substituting therefor the following:

"(5) In case an indigent sick resident is admitted into and receives hospital treatment in a hospital without a written order from the local authority, the local authority shall nevertheless be liable to pay to the hospital in respect of such hospital treatment such sums as may be properly chargeable pursuant to this Act if, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Medical Officer of the hospital, the case was one of urgent and sudden necessity, and if the Superintendent or Medical Officer so certifies to the local authority, and such certification may be in Form A to the Schedule to this Act or to the like effect, and if any dispute arises as to whether or not any case was one of urgent and sudden necessity, the question shall be referred to the Minister whose decision thereon shall be final and conclusive."

(2) The amendment made by this section shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect at all times from and after the twenty-eighth day of March, 1922, save and except only as to rights and liabilities determined by or asserted in any action, or other proceeding at any time prior to the first day of March, 1932.

3.—(1) The said Act is further amended as to section 7 thereof by striking out subsection (1) thereof and by substituting therefor the following:

"(1) Every local authority shall be liable for the hospital treatment of any indigent sick person in any case in which such person has been placed in a hospital in conformity to the provisions of the next preceding section;"

(2) The amendment made by this section shall be deemed to have been in full force and effect at all times from and after the twenty-eighth day of March, 1922, save and except only as to rights and liabilities determined by or asserted in any action, or other proceeding at any time prior to the first day of March, 1932.

4. The said Act is further amended as to section 7 thereof by striking out subsection (8) thereof and by substituting therefor the following:

“(8) When a local authority has entered into a contract with any hospital for the accommodation and care of indigent persons within its area and such contract has been approved by the Minister, and any such indigent person is accommodated and cared for in any hospital other than the contracting hospital, the last mentioned hospital shall be entitled to recover from the local authority for the accommodation and care of such indigent an amount calculated on the public ward rate ordinarily charged by such hospital or at the rate of two dollars and fifty cents per day, whichever is the lesser:

“Provided that a hospital board shall only be entitled to the benefit of this section if it notifies, in writing, the local authority it seeks to make chargeable, of the accommodation and care of such indigent person as soon as is reasonably possible with the use of ordinary diligence and having regard to all the circumstances of the case.”

5. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto, immediately after section 15 thereof, the following new sections:

“16.—(1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, if any indigent sick person is admitted to a hospital in another Province which receives aid from the general revenues of that Province, and if at the time of such admission a local authority in this Province would have been liable for the cost of hospital treatment if such person had received hospital treatment at a hospital in this Province, such local authority shall pay to such extra-provincial hospital on account of its charges for the care and treatment of such person the same amount as it would have paid if such person had received care and treatment in a hospital within this Province.

“(2) Upon the Lieutenant Governor in Council being satisfied that reciprocal provisions have been made by the Legislature in other Provinces, he may by order declare the provisions of subsection (1) of this section to be in force and to apply to such Province.

“17.—(1) The Minister may at any time enter into an agreement upon such terms as he deems proper with the board of any hospital for the setting apart of a portion of such hospital for the reception, care and treatment of cases of tuberculosis.

“(2) The Minister may enter into an agreement with any person upon such terms and conditions as the Minister may think fit for the reception of specific cases of tuberculosis.

“(3) The liability of a local authority for the care and reception of any person suffering from tuberculosis received into a hospital or any other place in pursuance of any agreement made pursuant to this section shall not exceed the amount which would have been payable if such person had been a patient in the Sanatorium.”

5. The said Act is further amended by adding thereto, immediately after the last section thereof, a Schedule as follows:

“SCHEDULE

“FORM A

“(Section 6, subsection (5).)

From.....

“(Name and address of Hospital giving notice.)

“NOTICE OF EMERGENCY CASE.

“To Mr.....

“(Secretary of the Municipality charged.)

Secretary ..

“(Name of Municipality.)

“ ..

“(Address)

“Dear Sir:

—“Under the provisions of section 6 of *The Hospitals Act*, you are hereby notified that.....

Post Office....., Residence....., who appears to be an indigent resident of your Municipality, was admitted on the..... day of....., 19..., to the..... Hospital as a case of sudden and urgent necessity, under the care of Doctor....., the diagnosis of the case being.....

“If the account of the above patient is not paid on discharge from hospital, your Municipality will be held liable for the account as being that of an indigent.

“If you claim the above patient is not a resident in your Municipality, please notify me immediately.

“.....

“(Superintendent.)

“I certify this case to be one of sudden and urgent necessity.

“.....

“(Superintendent or Medical Officer.)

“Dated at....., this..... day of....., 19....”

SECOND SESSION
SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
22 GEORGE V
1932

B I L L

An Act to amend The Hospitals Act.

Received and read the

First time.....

Second time.....

Third time.....

HON. MR. HOADLEY.

EDMONTON:
W. D. McLEAN, KING'S PRINTER
1932