

Chap. 59.

AN ACT to provide for a State Lunatic Asylum.

Published, April 15, 1854.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

§ 1. The governor is hereby authorized, and it shall be his duty, to appoint a board of commissioners, consisting of three persons, to select and purchase a suitable tract of land containing not less than one hundred nor more than two hundred acres, for the location of a state lunatic asylum: *Provided*, That if a site for such asylum suitable for that purpose in the opinion of the governor, and containing not less than one hundred acres, shall be donated for that purpose, or can be purchased for a sum not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars, then such asylum shall be located at or in the vicinity of the village of Madison, in Dane county.

Commissioners appointed.

Proviso.

§ 2. The conveyance of said land shall be to the state of Wisconsin, in fee simple, clear of all incumbrances, and on the execution and delivery of said conveyance, said commissioners being satisfied that no incumbrance exists on said land, shall draw their order on the state treasurer for the amount of the purchase money; which order shall be approved by the governor and countersigned by the secretary of state, and paid by the said treasurer out of any money appropriated by this act, not exceeding fifteen hundred dollars.

Such land to be granted in fee simple.

§ 3. The said commissioners are hereby further authorized, with the advice and consent of the governor, to cause to be erected upon the grounds purchased for that purpose, suitable buildings for the use and accommodation of said institution, which shall hereafter be called and known by the name of the Wisconsin State Lunatic Asylum; and also to make such other improvements upon and about the grounds, as they may think expedient and proper.

Commissioners authorized to erect suitable buildings.

§ 4. Such buildings shall be constructed in accordance with the plan of the Worcester Hospital for the insane,

Plan.

Provide. as recommended by the committee in their report to the senate: *Provided*, That said commissioners shall have power to make any alterations therein which they may think necessary, and which will not materially change said plan, or increase the cost of said building.

Vacancies in the board, how filled. § 5. The governor is hereby authorized to fill any vacancy in said board of commissioners, which may occur by reason of death, resignation, or refusal to act, and also to appoint a superintendent of said asylum who shall be a well educated physician, and who shall hold said appointment for the term of three years, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed by the governor.

Governor to appoint Superintendent. § 6. Such superintendent shall by virtue of his office be secretary of the board of commissioners, and shall before entering upon the duties of his office execute a bond, payable to the state of Wisconsin, in such sum and with such sureties as the governor may require and approve; which bond shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state, and shall be conditioned for a faithful discharge of all the duties required of him by law. It shall be the duty of the said superintendent under the direction of the board of commissioners, to superintend the erection of all buildings and the making of all improvements authorized by law. He shall also collect such information in relation to similar institutions as he may think proper, and lay the same before the board of commissioners.

Superintendent to execute and file a bond. § 7. As soon as the site for such asylum shall be conveyed to the state, the board of commissioners shall immediately publish a notice in at least six newspapers in this state and for six weeks successively, that sealed proposals will be received by them for furnishing materials and doing the work, for the erection of the asylum building, or such portion thereof as the commissioners may deem it advisable to have erected, specifying in such notice particularly the manner and time of the making and submitting of such proposals, and they shall award contracts for such materials and work to the lowest bidders therefor. With the advice and consent of the governor, they shall determine the time, the manner, and order in which the erection of all the buildings and work contemplated by this act shall be commenced, prosecuted, and completed, and adopt all necessary regulations therefor not inconsistent with this act.

Notice for sealed proposals for buildings to be published.

§ 8. Every account for work done, materials furnished, services performed, or expenses incurred in or about such asylum, shall be made out against the Wisconsin State Lunatic Asylum, and shall contain a particular specification of each item thereof, and when so made out shall be filed with the superintendent of said asylum, who shall record the same in a book to be kept for that purpose, after which the same shall be laid before the board of commissioners for their allowance. Upon being satisfied of the correctness of such account, said board shall allow and certify the same to the secretary of state, who shall audit and direct the state treasurer to pay the amount thereof out of the appropriation made by this act, and the state treasurer shall pay the same and take receipts therefor in the same manner other appropriations are paid.

Itemized account
of expenditures
to be kept.

§ 9. The said superintendent is hereby authorized to receive subscriptions and donations for the purposes contemplated by this act.

Superintendent
may receive sub-
scriptions, &c.

§ 10. The aforesaid commissioners shall serve as such for the term of one year, unless sooner removed by the governor, and before entering upon the duties of their offices shall take an oath to faithfully perform all the duties required of them by this act. They shall hold stated meetings at least once a month, and as much oftener as business shall require, at the office of the superintendent, or such other place as they may appoint. They shall keep a record of their proceedings, and shall report the same to the legislature at the next session thereof, and shall receive two and a half dollars per day, while necessarily employed about the business of said asylum.

Commissioners
take an oath.

Monthly meet-
ings, &c.

§ 11. The aforesaid superintendent shall receive twelve hundred dollars for the first year's service, and thereafter such sum as the legislature shall designate.

Salary of Supt.

§ 12. There is hereby appropriated out of the state treasury the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, for the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred under the provisions of this act.

§ 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved, March 30, 1854.