

TITLE XV. Public Health.

CHAPTER 140.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

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140.01 State board of health. The state board of health shall consist of seven members, appointed by the governor with the consent of the senate. One member shall be appointed each year, and their respective terms of office shall begin on the first Monday of February in the year of appointment and shall continue for seven years.

140.02 Officers. A member of the board shall be chosen president. His term shall be fixed by the board, and his duties be prescribed by by-law or statutes. The board shall elect a secretary from their own number or otherwise, who shall hold his office subject to removal at discretion by a vote of five members of the board at a regular meeting, and while in office be a member of the board. The secretary shall be the executive officer of the board and the state health officer. He shall keep a record of the board's transactions and have custody of its books, papers and other property; he shall, so far as practicable, communicate with other similar state boards and local boards of health within this state, and file and keep all reports and correspondence; he shall prepare and distribute to local boards blank forms and instructions as may be necessary, and collect all such information and statistics as concern the work of the board and perform all other duties which may be prescribed by by-law or statute.

140.03 Meetings; by-laws. The board shall meet each month and at such other times and at such places as may be directed by the board or its president, except that the January meeting shall be held at Madison. The board may adopt by-laws for its government.

140.04 Offices, printing, obsolete records. (1) Suitable apartments equipped with fireproof vaults shall be provided in the capitol by the director of purchases for the state board of health. The official printing of the board shall be furnished as provided in sections 20.10 (3) and 35.03. The board may supply to local health officers and others on request quarantine signs, placards, record books and other uniform blanks and other publications and materials.

140.05 Powers and duties. (1) The state board of health shall have general supervision throughout the state of the health and life of citizens, and shall study especially the vital statistics of the state and endeavor to put the same to profitable use. It shall make sanitary investigations into the causes of disease, especially epidemics, the causes of mortality, and the effect on health of localities, employments, conditions, habits and circumstances, and make sanitary inspections and surveys in all parts of the state. It may, upon due notice, enter upon and inspect private property. It shall have power to execute what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease. It shall voluntarily or when required, advise public boards or officers in regard to heating and ventilation of any public building or institution. It may send its secretary or a committee to any part of the state to investigate the cause and circumstances of any special or unusual disease or mortality, or to inspect any public building; and such officers shall have full authority to do any act necessary therefor. The board may establish bureaus and shall possess

all powers necessary to fulfill the duties prescribed in the statutes and to bring action in the courts for the enforcement of health laws and health rules. It may empower the state health officer to act for the board upon such matters as it may determine in issuing and enforcing orders in compliance with law and rules and regulations adopted by the board. Whenever anyone feels aggrieved by any order of a state health officer, he may appeal to the board.

(2) The board shall disseminate such health information as it deems proper. It shall recommend from time to time works of hygiene for use in the public schools and shall cooperate with the several educational institutions and the school system of this state in disseminating information to the general public in all matters pertaining to health, and shall use the research facilities of the University of Wisconsin for the preservation and improvement of the public health under such rules and regulations as may be agreed upon with the regents of the university, and facilitate the special instruction of students in sanitation, hygiene and vital statistics in any school or department of the university in manner not inconsistent with and not interfering with the orderly and efficient administration of the public health work.

(3) The board shall have power to make and enforce such rules, regulations and orders governing the duties of all health officers and health boards, and as to any subject matter under its supervision, as shall be necessary to efficient administration and to protect health, and violation shall be punished by fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars for each offense, unless penalty be specially provided. The rules and regulations shall bear the seal of the board, be attested by the state health officer, and be published in the official state paper and distributed in pamphlet or leaf form to all health officers and any citizen asking for the same. They shall not be effective until thirty days after publication. All rules and regulations so adopted and published and all orders issued by the board in conformity with law shall be valid and in force, and prima facie reasonable and lawful until they are found otherwise in an action brought for that purpose or until altered or revoked by the board.

(4) Any member of the board may administer oaths, certify to official acts, issue subpoenas, compel the attendance of witnesses, and production of papers, books, documents and testimony. Witness fees and mileage shall be paid by the state and charged to the appropriation for the board, but no witness subpoenaed at the instance of parties other than the board shall be entitled to fees or mileage from the state, unless the board shall certify that his testimony was material.

(5) The board shall keep a full and complete record of proceedings before it on any investigation, and have all testimony taken by its stenographer.

(6) The board shall, in October of each even-numbered year, report to the governor, its transactions, investigations and discoveries during the preceding term, with suggestions for legislation.

(7) The board shall have power to make and enforce such rules, regulations and standards as it shall deem necessary to insure proper sanitary conditions in the development and maintenance of lake and stream shore plats.

(8) The board shall have power to license and exercise supervision over maternity hospitals as provided in sections 48.43 to 48.47.

(9) The board shall have power to establish, equip and operate a state branch laboratory of hygiene in a city accessible to physicians and health officers in the northern part of the state for the conducting of bacteriological and chemical examinations of material from the various contagious and infectious diseases or material from suspected contagious and infectious diseases of men and animals when public health is concerned; on condition that suitable quarters for such laboratory shall be offered to the state free of charge for rent, light, heat and janitor service. The board may also establish and aid in maintaining in conjunction with the cities of the state not more than seven state co-operative laboratories. All such co-operative laboratories shall be operated in such manner and under such conditions as the board may determine in its rules and regulations governing the state public health laboratories.

(11) Any physician knowing or having reason to know that a patient treated or visited by him has cancer, carcinoma, sarcoma or other malignant growths shall report the same to the state board of health, in writing, on blanks furnished by said board and as it directs. These reports shall be confidential and not open to public inspection.

(12) The board may make transcripts of such records for the United States Census Bureau, the Social Security Board and other governmental agencies upon their request and payment of the fees mutually agreed upon.

(13) The board shall report to the motor vehicle department the names, ages and addresses of all persons reported to it as epileptics.

140.055 Sanitary supervision of county institutions. (1) The state board of health shall investigate and supervise the sanitary conditions of all the charitable, curative, reformatory and penal institutions of every county and other municipality, all detention homes for children and all industrial schools, hospitals, asylums and institutions, organized for the purposes set forth in section 58.01.

(2) The board shall annually and oftener, if necessary, and whenever required by the governor, visit the jails, municipal prisons, houses of correction, workhouses and all other places in which persons convicted or suspected of crime or insane persons are confined and ascertain the sanitary conditions thereof.

(3) The provisions of section 46.16 (8) and (9) shall apply to such investigations and visitations except that the expenses thereof shall be charged to the appropriation made to the state board of health.

140.06 Sanitary inspection. (1) The state board of health may appoint a state sanitary inspector, who shall be a medical practitioner holding a Wisconsin license, and shall possess such other qualifications as the board shall determine.

(2) It shall be the duty of the sanitary inspector to assist in the work of the board under its direction to the end that the laws and rules adopted by said board for the preservation of the public health may be strictly enforced in the various parts of the state. The inspector shall have the same right of inspection in regard to all matters affecting the public health as has been, or may be, conferred upon the state or local boards of health. He shall, under the direction of the board make thorough and complete investigations of nuisances, sources of sickness, infectious or contagious diseases, water supplies, and sewerage disposal systems, the sanitary condition of public buildings, jails, schoolhouses, school grounds, hotels, and such other work as is found necessary to improve the general sanitary and hygienic conditions. He shall make special investigations concerning the prevalence of tuberculosis in any locality, and assist the board in enforcing laws and rules adopted by the board relating to tuberculosis.

(3) The inspector shall immediately after completion report in writing to the secretary of the board a complete account of the essential facts disclosed by an investigation, together with recommendations made and work done.

140.07 Districts; district health officers. (1) The state board of health shall from time to time divide the state into sanitary districts, not exceeding 10, and it shall appoint for each a district health officer, who shall hold office during efficiency and good behavior and who may be removed for cause by the board after opportunity to be heard. He shall not during his term of office engage in any occupation which would conflict with his official duties. Wherever in the statutes the term "deputy state health officer" is used, the term "district health officer" is substituted. The revisor of statutes is directed to make such substitution.

(2) The district health officer shall have jurisdiction throughout his district; and he shall have in pursuit of his official duties right of entry into any workshop, factory, dairy, creamery, slaughterhouse or other place of business or employment. He shall carry out the instructions of the state board of health and make such investigations and reports as the board may require. He shall, when required by the board with the help of local health officers, inspect and report upon the sanitary conditions of streams and sources of public water supplies, schools and schoolhouses, dairies, creameries, slaughterhouses, workshops and factories, and of all places where offensive industries are conducted.

(3) The district health officer shall make careful inquiry, when required by the state board of health, into the effects of the different kinds of employment upon the health of employes and operators, with special reference to tuberculosis and to lead and phosphorous poisoning and other industrial diseases, and in all such investigations and inquiries he shall have the power to administer oaths. He shall enforce any public health statute, or rule or regulation of the state board of health or of any local board of health or health officer when such local board of health or health officer neglects or refuses to enforce such statute, rule or regulation, after due notice by him or by the state board.

(4) The district health officer, under the direction of the state board and subject to laws, rules and regulations relating to public health, shall:

(a) Keep himself informed as to the work of each local health officer.

(b) Aid each local health officer in the performance of his duties, and particularly on the appearance of communicable disease, and he shall respond promptly when called upon for advice or assistance by any board of health or health officer.

(c) Assist each local health officer in making an annual sanitary survey and in maintaining a continuous sanitary supervision.

(d) Adjust questions of jurisdiction arising between local health officers.

(e) Study the causes of excessive mortality from any disease in any portion of his district.

(f) Promote efficient registration of marriages, births, stillbirths and deaths.

(g) Inspect from time to time all labor camps and enforce the regulations of the state board of health in relation thereto.

(h) Endeavor to enlist the co-operation of all organizations of physicians within his district in the improvement of the public health therein.

140.08 Local and state conferences. (1) The state health officer, directly or through district health officers, may call a biennial state conference of health officers, and may call local conferences.

(2) District health officers and local health officers shall attend such conferences, but local officers need not attend more than one state and one local conference a year.

(3) The expense of attendance of local health officers shall be paid by the municipality, upon certificate of the state or district health officer, but only for one state and one local conference a year.

140.09 County, city-county and multiple county health departments. (1) **DEFINITIONS.** As used in this section:

(a) "County health department" and "county board of health" refer to a single county health department or board of health, a multiple county health department or board of health, or a city-county health department or board of health.

(b) "County health officer" refers to the position of a health officer either in a county health department, multiple county health department or city-county health department.

(c) "Health department" means a full-time health department unless otherwise specified and refers to one whose personnel, other than consultants and clinicians, devote their full time to health department duties.

(2) **POWER OF COUNTY BOARD.** Any county board may organize a single county department of health, or a city-county department of health or may join with one or more adjacent counties to organize a multiple county department of health. But no more than 3 counties shall join in one such department without prior approval of the state board of health.

(3) **COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH.** (a) Each single county health department shall be managed by a board of health, consisting of not less than 5 nor more than 7 members, appointed by the chairman of the county board with the approval of the county board. One member shall be a member of the county board. Two members shall be physicians, practicing in the county, and shall be selected from a list of 5 physicians submitted by the county medical society. One member shall be a dentist, practicing in the county, and shall be selected from a list of 3 dentists submitted by the county dental society. The remaining members shall be residents of the county, men or women who are persons of ability and known to have a broad social viewpoint and a serious interest in the health protection of their community. The first appointee will serve one year, the second 2 years, the third 3 years, fourth 4 years, fifth 5 years, sixth, if any, one year, seventh, if any, 2 years, and their successors shall each serve for 5 years. Terms shall begin on anniversary dates of the organization of the board of health.

(b) Each multiple county health department shall be managed by a board of health consisting of 3 members appointed from each county by the chairman of the respective county board with the approval of the county board. One shall be a member of the county board. One shall be a physician practicing in the county and shall be selected from a list of 3 physicians submitted by the county medical society. The third member shall be a dentist practicing in the county and shall be selected from a list of 3 dentists submitted by the county dental society. The term of office will be for 5 years except that the first appointee of each county board will be for 2 years, the second for 4 years and the third for 5 years. Terms shall begin on the anniversary dates of the organizations of the board of health.

(c) A county board and a city council for a city located in a county may organize a joint city-county department of health. Such city-county health department shall be managed by a board of health consisting of 7 members. One member shall be a member of the city council and shall be appointed by the mayor or city manager with the approval of the council. One member shall be a member of the county board and shall be appointed by the chairman of the county board with the approval of the board. Two members shall be physicians practicing in the county selected from a list of 5 physicians furnished by the county medical society. One such physician shall be appointed by the chairman of the county board with the approval of the board and one by the mayor or city manager with approval of the council. One member shall be a dentist practicing in the county and shall be appointed by the chairman of the county board with approval of the board from a list of 3 dentists submitted by the county dental society. Two members shall be residents of the county and shall be persons of ability and known to have a broad social viewpoint

and a serious interest in the health protection of the community. The chairman of the county board, with the approval of the county board, shall appoint one such member and the mayor or city manager, with the approval of the council, shall appoint the other. The first member appointed shall hold office for one year, the second member for 2 years, the third member 3 years, the fourth member 4 years, the fifth member 5 years, the sixth member one year and the seventh member 2 years. Their successors shall each hold office for 5 years. Terms shall begin on anniversary dates of the organization of the board of health.

(4) **HEALTH OFFICER, ELIGIBILITY, DUTIES.** The board of health shall appoint a county health officer who shall be a licensed physician especially trained in health work and, except in counties covered by sections 16.31 to 16.44, shall be selected from an eligible list submitted by the state board of health. He shall be appointed for a term of 5 years, subject to removal for cause. The county department of health shall be under the immediate direction of the county health officer, who shall give his entire time to the work.

(5) **ORGANIZATION OF BOARD OF HEALTH.** The board of health of each county, multiple county or city-county unit shall immediately after appointment meet and organize by the election of one of its members as president and one as secretary, to hold office for a term of one year. Members shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses.

(6) **BOARD'S POWERS.** The county board of health when established in any county shall have all the powers and authority now vested in local boards of health and local health officers and shall have authority to enforce such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the state board of health under the laws of the state. It may adopt such rules for its own guidance and for the government of the health department as may be deemed necessary to protect and improve public health, not inconsistent with state law nor with rules and regulations of the state board of health. The county board of supervisors shall determine compensation of health department employes.

(7) **DUTIES OF THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER.** The county health officer shall have charge of the county department of health and perform the duties prescribed by the county board of health. He shall enforce this section and the regulations of the state and local boards of health and have supervisory power over all officers or employes of the county health department. He shall submit to the board of health, county board of supervisors and city council an annual report of the administration of his department.

(8) **LOCAL EMPLOYES.** The county health officer shall appoint, subject to the approval of the county board of health, all necessary subordinate personnel.

(9) **PUBLICATION AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF REGULATIONS.** The orders and regulations of the county board of health shall be published in some newspaper of general circulation throughout the county and shall take effect immediately after publication.

(10) **LOCAL BOARDS AND OFFICERS ABOLISHED.** Whenever a county board provides for a county department of health, the boards of health and health officers in all towns, cities and villages within such county shall be abolished, except as provided in subsection (11).

(11) **JURISDICTION OF COUNTY; LOCAL OPTION.** The jurisdiction of the county department of health shall extend to all towns, villages and cities within the county, other than those having a full-time health department. Towns, cities and villages having full-time health departments may by vote of their governing bodies determine to come under such jurisdiction. No supervisor from any city, village or town maintaining a full-time health department shall have any part in any determination under this section, and no part of any expense incurred under this subsection shall be levied against any property within such city, village or town.

(12) **OFFICES, APPROPRIATIONS.** Whenever provision is made for a single county department of health, the county is empowered to provide office facilities and appropriate funds necessary for the maintenance of the work. The board of health of such department shall annually prepare a budget of its proposed expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year.

(13) **GIFTS; COUNTY CO-OPERATING.** The county board of health may receive gifts and donations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section.

(14) **JOINT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS, HOW FINANCED.** The board of health of every multiple county health department and of every city-county health department created under this section shall annually prepare a budget of its proposed expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year and determine the proportionate cost to each participating county and city on the basis of equalized valuation. A certified copy of such budget, which shall include a statement of the amount required from each county and city, shall be delivered to the county board of each participating county and to the mayor or city manager of each participating city. The appropriation to be made by each participating county and municipality shall be determined by the governing body thereof. No part of the cost apportioned to the county shall be levied against any property within such city.

(15) **JOINT HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUNDS.** In the treasurer's office of the county wherein is located the principal office of each multiple county or city-county health department, or in the office of the city treasurer of a participating city, as determined by the board of health, there shall be created a joint health department fund. The treasurer of each county and city participating in such health department shall annually pay or cause to be paid into said fund the share of such county or city. This fund shall be expended by the treasurer in whose office said fund is kept in the manner prescribed by the county board of health pursuant to properly authenticated vouchers of such health department signed by the county health officer.

(16) **COUNTY NURSES.** When a county health department is established county nurses shall be transferred to the jurisdiction of the county health department and county health committees shall cease functioning.

(17) **WITHDRAWAL OF COUNTIES AND CITIES.** After establishment of a multiple county health department any participating county may withdraw by giving written notice to its board of health and the county board of supervisors of all other participating counties. Such notice shall be given at least one year prior to commencement of the fiscal year at which it takes effect. Cities having full-time health departments prior to their decision to participate in a city-county health department may withdraw therefrom in the same manner. Whenever any county or city shall withdraw from any health department established under this section all provisions of law relating to local boards of health and health officers shall immediately become applicable within such county or city.

(18) **CONSTITUTIONALITY.** If any of the provisions of this section shall be held to be unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions thereof shall not be affected thereby.

140.10 Name of act. Sections 140.10 to 140.22 may be cited as the "Wisconsin Hospital Survey and Construction Act".

140.11 Definitions. As used in sections 140.10 to 140.22:

(1) "The federal act" means Public Law 725 of the 79th Congress, approved August 13, 1946, entitled the Hospital Survey and Construction Act.

(2) "The surgeon general" means the surgeon general of the public health service of the United States.

(3) "Hospital" includes public health centers and general, tuberculosis, mental, chronic disease, and other types of hospitals, and related facilities, such as laboratories, out-patient departments, nurses' home and training facilities, and central service facilities operated in connection with hospitals, but does not include any hospital furnishing primarily domiciliary care.

(4) "Public health center" means a publicly owned facility for the provision of public health services, including related facilities such as laboratories, clinics, and administrative offices operated in connection with public health centers.

(5) "Nonprofit hospital" means any hospital owned and operated by a corporation or association, no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

140.12 Administration; division of hospital survey and construction. There is hereby established in the state board of health a division of hospital survey and construction which shall be administered by a full-time salaried director under the supervision and direction of the state health officer. The board, through such division, shall constitute the sole agency of the state for the purpose of:

(1) Making an inventory of existing hospitals, surveying the need for construction of hospitals, and developing the program of hospital construction specified in sections 140.15 and 140.16, and

(2) Developing and administering a state plan for the construction of public and other nonprofit hospitals specified in sections 140.17 to 140.22.

140.13 General powers and duties. In carrying out the purposes of the act, the board is authorized and directed:

(1) To require such reports, make such inspections and investigations and prescribe such regulations as it deems necessary;

(2) To provide such methods of administration, appoint a director and other personnel of the division and take such other action as may be necessary to comply with the requirements of the federal act and the regulations thereunder;

(3) To procure in its discretion the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants or organizations thereof, by contract, when such services are to be performed on a part-time or fee-for-service basis and do not involve the performance of administrative duties;

(4) To the extent that it considers desirable to effectuate the purpose of this act, to enter into agreements for the utilization of facilities and services of other departments, agencies and institutions, public or private;

(5) To accept on behalf of the state and to deposit with the state treasurer any grant, gift or contribution made to assist in meeting the cost of carrying out the purposes of this act, and to expend the same for such purposes;

(6) To make an annual report to the governor on activities and expenditures pursuant to this act, including recommendations for such additional legislation as the board considers appropriate to furnish adequate hospital, clinic and similar facilities to the people of this state.

140.14 Advisory hospital council. (1) The board shall appoint an advisory hospital council to advise and consult in the carrying out of the administration of this act. The council shall consist of the state health officer, and 13 members, residents of the state, and shall include:

(a) Two persons of recognized ability in the field of hospital administration who shall be appointed from a list submitted by the Wisconsin hospital association.

(b) Seven persons of recognized ability from the fields of medicine, nursing, welfare, public health, architecture, or allied professions in the field of health, including 2 persons licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the state, one person licensed as a pharmacist and one person licensed as a dentist in this state, and including the director of the department of public welfare, and

(c) Four persons with broad civic interests representing varied segments of the population and the consumers of hospital services and including one person representing agriculture and one person representing labor.

(2) Terms of members appointed prior to April 16, 1949, shall be continued, and of the 4 additional members, 2 shall be appointed for one year, one for 2 years, and one for 3 years, and their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years except when appointed to complete an unexpired term. Members whose terms expire shall hold office until appointment of their successors. Where any professional group fails to submit a list of suggested appointees within 90 days after being invited so to do, the board may appoint persons within the group as it may see fit. The state health officer shall serve as chairman or secretary of the council, as the members may choose, and the other officers shall be elected annually.

(3) Council members, while serving on business of the council, shall receive compensation at the rate of \$10 per day and shall also be entitled to receive actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses while so serving away from their places of residence.

(4) The council shall meet as frequently as the state board of health deems necessary but not less than once each year. Upon request by 5 or more members, it shall be the duty of the chairman to call a meeting of the council.

140.15 Survey and planning activities. The board is authorized and directed to make an inventory of existing hospitals, including public, nonprofit and proprietary hospitals, to survey the need for construction of hospitals, and on the basis of such inventory and survey, to develop a program for the construction of such public and other nonprofit hospitals as will, in conjunction with the existing facilities, afford the necessary physical facilities for furnishing adequate hospital, clinic and similar services to all the people of the state. The state health officer is authorized to make application to the surgeon general for federal funds to assist in carrying out the survey and planning activities.

140.16 State hospital construction plan. The state health officer shall prepare and submit to the surgeon general a state plan which shall include the hospital construction program developed under section 140.15 and which shall provide for the establishment, administration and operation of hospital construction activities in accordance with the requirements of the federal act and regulations thereunder, and shall make the plan or a copy thereof available upon request to all interested persons or organizations. The state health officer shall from time to time review the hospital construction program and submit to the surgeon general any modifications thereof which he may find necessary and not inconsistent with the requirements of the federal act.

140.17 Construction program. The construction program shall provide, in accordance with regulations prescribed under the federal act, for adequate hospital facilities for the people residing in this state and in so far as possible for their distribution throughout the state in such manner as to make all types of hospital service reasonably accessible to all persons in the state.

140.18 Minimum standards for hospital maintenance and operation. The board shall by regulation prescribe minimum standards for the maintenance and operation of hospitals which receive federal aid for construction under the state plan.

140.19 Priority of projects. The plan shall set forth the relative need for the several projects included in the construction program determined in accordance with regulations prescribed pursuant to the federal act, and provide for the construction, in so far as financial resources available therefor and for maintenance and operations make possible, in the order of such relative need.

140.20 Construction projects; applications. Applications for hospital construction projects for which federal funds are requested may be submitted to the board by the state or any political subdivision thereof, or by any public or nonprofit agency authorized to construct and operate a hospital. Each application for a construction project shall conform to federal and state requirements.

140.21 Consideration and forwarding of applications. The board shall afford to every applicant for a construction project an opportunity for a fair hearing. If the board, after affording reasonable opportunity for development and presentation of applications in the order of relative need, finds that a project application complies with the requirements of section 140.20 and is otherwise in conformity with the state plan, it shall approve such application and shall recommend and forward it to the surgeon general.

140.22 Inspection of projects. From time to time the board shall inspect each construction project approved by the surgeon general and, if the inspection so warrants, it shall certify to the surgeon general that work has been performed upon the project, or purchases have been made, in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, and that payment of an instalment of federal funds is due to the applicant.