

## CHAPTER 47.

## EDUCATION AND RELIEF OF THE BLIND AND DEAF.

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**47.01 Schools for the visually handicapped and deaf.** (1) The objects of the Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped and the Wisconsin school for the deaf are to afford to those unfortunate classes, respectively, so far as possible, enlightened and practical education, which may aid them to obtain the means of subsistence, discharge the duties of citizens, and secure all the happiness which they are capable of obtaining. A summer school for adult blind persons shall be maintained in connection with such school for the visually handicapped.

(2) The Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped and the Wisconsin school for the deaf and all of the functions, powers and duties relating thereto, except under sections 47.05 and 47.06, are vested in the state superintendent of public instruction; except that the management and administration of the farms in connection with such schools is vested in the state department of public welfare. All receipts accruing from the operation of such farms shall be credited to, and all expenditures incurred in connection with the operation of such farms shall be charged against the proper appropriation for the department of public welfare.

(3) The name of the Wisconsin school for the blind is changed to the Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped. The revisor of statutes is directed to make the necessary changes in the language of the statutes so as to indicate the change of name provided for in this subsection. [1939 c. 59; 1943 c. 93; 1945 c. 193, 450]

**47.02 Admission; nonresident tuition; school year; degrees.** (1) All the blind and deaf residents of this state between the ages of eight and twenty-five years, of suitable capacity to receive instruction, shall be received and taught in said schools, respectively, free of charge. Like pupils may also be received from any person or corporation without this state upon the payment quarterly in advance of the sums prescribed by the state superintendent of public instruction; but no such pupil shall ever be received to the exclusion of any resident pupil from any of the privileges or benefits of the institution. All pupils shall equally and freely enjoy all the benefits and privileges of the school and institution, have the use of the library and books of instruction, and receive board, lodging, washing, and fuel, without preference or distinction. The steward of the school may provide means of transportation for resident indigent pupils going from and returning thereto.

(2) The state superintendent of public instruction shall fix the period of the school year in said schools at not less than thirty-eight weeks, prescribe the school terms and confer upon meritorious pupils therein such academic and literary degrees as are usually conferred by similar institutions, and grant diplomas accordingly.

(3) The state superintendent of public instruction may provide for the education of deaf-blind children of suitable capacity to receive instruction either in a special class designed for that purpose outside the state or in a special class to be established within the state whenever there is a sufficient number of deaf-blind children to warrant the establishment of such class. The cost of such education shall be charged to the appropriation in section 20.21 (9a).

(4) The state superintendent may arrange for vocational or trade training for any enrolled pupil qualified to pursue such training advantageously in either the state school for the deaf or the state school for the visually handicapped, with the high school or the vocational school or a private business establishment in the cities of Janesville or Delavan. The high school and the vocational school shall be paid the regular tuition for full-time attendance and an apportionate rate for part-time attendance. The tuition for said trade or vocational training shall be paid for out of the funds appropriated for the

operation of the state school for the deaf and the state school for the visually handicapped in section 20.21 (9a).

(5) The state superintendent may arrange for otological or ophthalmic examination of any pupil or prospective pupil of the state school for the deaf or the state school for the visually handicapped and said examination shall be paid for out of funds appropriated for the operation of said schools.

(6) The state superintendent may make application to the board of regents of the university for the admission to the Wisconsin general hospital of any pupil enrolled in either the Wisconsin school for the deaf or the Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped. Said application shall be accompanied by a report of a physician appointed by the superintendent of the school in the same form as reports of other physicians for admission of patients to said hospitals.

(7) The net cost of such treatment shall be at the same rate charged the county for county patients, and shall be chargeable one-half to the appropriation for operation of the school, from which the said patient is sent, and one-half to the state. The state superintendent may likewise authorize the payment of expenses incidental to the transportation of patients to and from said hospital. Payments for the treatment of such patients are to be made by the state superintendent to the regents of the university, for such portion as is chargeable to the operation fund of the school, and such portion as is chargeable to the state shall be certified and paid as provided in section 142.08 (1). Any funds collected by the superintendents of the schools from parents or guardians on account of the hospitalization of children shall be deposited in the general fund of the state. [1935 c. 264, 309; 1939 c. 59; 1939 c. 513 s. 11; 1943 c. 170; 1945 c. 561]

**47.03 Compulsory education of the blind and deaf.** Whenever it shall be made to appear, by affidavit, to any county or municipal judge that any blind, deaf, or hard of hearing child between the ages of 6 and 20 years is deprived of a suitable education by the neglect or refusal of its parents or either of them, or its guardian or other person having the care or custody of such child, such judge shall summon such parents or parent, guardian, or other person to bring such child before him, and if the material allegations of such affidavit be denied he shall subpoena witnesses and hear testimony. If the facts be admitted or established the judge may, in his discretion, order such child to be sent to the Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped or the Wisconsin school for the deaf or to some other public or private class or school for the instruction of the blind or deaf but in no case shall such order be made so as to cause any direct charge to be made by such class or school against any county. [1945 c. 193, 428]

**47.04 Library for the blind.** The books printed in embossed type and purchased pursuant to law, or otherwise acquired for the Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped constitute a state circulating library for the blind, which shall be kept at the school for the visually handicapped and be in charge of the superintendent thereof. All blind citizens of the state shall have the privilege of using such books on compliance with and subject to such regulations as said superintendent may make, on their approval by the state superintendent of public instruction. [1939 c. 59; 1945 c. 193]

**47.045** [Renumbered section 47.01 (2) by 1943 c. 93]

**47.05 Field agency; workshop.** (1) A field agency for the care of the adult blind shall be established by the state department of public welfare. The agency shall be divided into 2 divisions, one to be known as the commercial division and the other as the social and statistical division. The state department of public welfare shall appoint suitable persons to execute the duties of said divisions.

(2) The duties of the social and statistical division shall be as follows:

(a) To visit the blind at their homes; to investigate their living conditions and home surroundings; to give them such instruction and assistance as will seem likely to improve their condition, increase their happiness, and make them more useful, self-respecting and self-supporting citizens.

(b) To make and keep a record of all the blind of the state, showing as far as possible cause of blindness, physical, mental and financial condition, their capacity for educational and industrial training, and such other facts as the agency may think proper and valuable.

(c) To ameliorate the condition of the aged or helpless blind by promoting visits to them in their homes for the purpose of instruction, and by such other lawful methods as may seem to the bureau to be expedient.

(d) To perform such duties as in the judgment of the state department of public welfare seem likely in any way to assist, to rehabilitate, or to ameliorate the condition of any adult blind of the state.

(e) To make inquiries concerning the cause of blindness, to learn what proportion of these cases are preventable, and to co-operate with the state board of health in adopting and enforcing proper preventive measures.

(f) To supply to the county authorities any information in its possession which may aid in any way the administration of the law providing pension or relief to blind persons.

(3) The duties of the commercial division of the agency shall be as follows:

(a) To establish an employment agency so that blind may be employed in industries for which they are fitted.

(b) To establish schools for industrial training and work schools or shops for the employment of suitable blind persons, and shall be empowered to equip and maintain the same, to pay the employes suitable wages and to devise means for the sale and distribution of the products thereof. The agency may also provide or pay for, during their training, temporary lodging and support for pupils or workmen received at any industrial schools and workshops established by it.

(c) To establish a trade bureau so that raw materials can be supplied to the blind at cost and the finished product disposed of by co-operative marketing.

(d) The state department of public welfare is directed to make provisions for the leasing of such suitable buildings or apartments as may be necessary, for the use of the Wisconsin workshop for the blind, to provide for the heating and lighting of such buildings or apartments and for such water as may be necessary to be used therein. The rent of such buildings or apartments and the cost of such heating, lighting and water shall be paid by the state under the direction of the state department of public welfare. The department is also authorized to furnish such workmen as avail themselves of the privileges of said workshop, a limited amount of materials and tools required in their employments. [1935 c. 309; 1939 c. 59; 1943 c. 93]

**47.06 Inmates of workshop; transportation.** The said department may, in its discretion, provide means of instruction in such workshop to any adult blind residents of the state who desire to learn a trade; and may provide for or make a reasonable allowance for the board of indigent blind persons who are not residents of the city of Milwaukee, for a reasonable time so as to enable them to learn a trade and become self-supporting, such allowance not to exceed in any case the sum of \$75. Said department may also provide means of transportation from any point within the state to Milwaukee for any indigent blind person who is a resident of the state and who desires to avail himself of the privileges of said workshop. [1935 c. 309; 1943 c. 93]

**47.07 Scholarships for blind students.** Any blind person who has been a resident of this state for at least 5 years next preceding the making of an application for aid under this section and who is a regularly enrolled student in any university, college or conservatory of music, may under the direction of the superintendent of the Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped, and subject to the approval of the state superintendent of public instruction, receive aid for the purpose of defraying his necessary expenses, including a reader, while in attendance at such university, college or conservatory of music. The amount of such aid to any such person shall not exceed \$300 in any one year, nor shall the total amount of such aid exceed \$2,000. [1939 c. 59; 1945 c. 193]

**47.08** [Repealed by 1945 c. 585]

**47.09** [Repealed by 1939 c. 513 s. 12]

**47.09 Concessions; blind persons.** The cigar stand concessions located in the state capitol and in the state office building shall be leased to and operated by blind persons chosen, operated and supervised by the state department of public welfare in the same manner as similar concessions under the jurisdiction of the department in private, state and federal buildings. This section shall become effective upon the expiration of the existing leases of said concessions. [1945 c. 588]

**47.10** [Repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]

**47.105** [Repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]

**47.11** [Repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]

**47.12** [Repealed by 1935 c. 309]

**47.135** [Repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]