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CHAPTER 96

AN ACT to amend 182.032 (2) (b), (d) and (e) and (3) (c); and to create 182.032 (2) (f) of the statutes, relating to hospital service corporations.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 182.032 (2) (b), (d) and (e) of the statutes are amended to read:

182.032 (2) (b) Such contracts shall be with participating hospitals or with service hospitals, * * * *as defined in par. (d)*. Whenever their boards of directors * * * *so order*, such corporations may pay other hospitals, in Wisconsin or elsewhere, with which they * * * *do not have contractual relations, for services to a subscriber or his dependents, such amounts and under the terms, conditions and regulations as the said boards * * * prescribe.*

(d) Such hospitals shall be participating hospitals or service hospitals. * * * *As used in this section:*

1. "Participating hospital * * *" * * *means* a voluntary nonprofit hospital, acceptable to the corporation, and accepted by action of its board of directors, which may contract with the corporation under the terms, conditions, provisions and regulations as the board of directors * * * *prescribes*, qualifying it to designate members of the corporation as hereinafter provided. * * *

2. "Service hospital * * *" * * *means* a voluntary nonprofit hospital, * * * a hospital owned, operated and maintained by the state or any political subdivision thereof, *or any other hospital acceptable to the corporation and accepted by action of its board of directors, which may contract with it under the terms, conditions, provisions and regulations that the board of directors * * * prescribes*, but which will grant no right to such service hospital to designate members of the corporation as aforesaid. * * *

3. "Subscriber * * *" * * * means any person to whom, or for whose benefit, the corporation * * * issues a service contract, entitling such person or his dependents to hospital services as provided therein.

(e) Such hospital service corporations may enter into contracts with the state medical society of Wisconsin or with county medical societies of this state, operating plans under ch. 148, * * * with * * * disability insurance corporations licensed to transact business in this state, and others to act as enrolling, * * * billing and record-keeping agent to such extent as may be agreed.

SECTION 2. 182.032 (2) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

182.032 (2) (f) Such corporations may also provide for the sickness care of indigents and low income groups, and others, through contracts with persons other than physicians and surgeons and dentists, and by other means, provided only that free choice of professional persons providing professional services be retained, and that the responsibility of such other professional persons providing professional services to patient and all other contract and tort relationships with patient shall remain as though the dealings were direct between such professional persons providing professional services and patient.

SECTION 3. 182.032 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

182.032 (3) (c) That all contracts between such corporations and a subscriber, or for the benefit of a subscriber, shall only provide for hospital services * * * and for sickness care. Such contract shall not be interpreted to place upon the subscriber the obligation of choosing for hospital services any particular participating or service hospital among the contracting hospitals, or give the corporation the right to designate or require the choice of any particular participating or service hospital.

Approved June 4, 1963.
