

CHAPTER 314.

AN ACT to repeal 46.21 (4) (d) and (e); to amend 46.21 (1) (c), (2) (a), (c) and (e), (3) (a), (4) (b), and 49.51 (2) (a) (introductory paragraph); and to create 46.21 (6) (c) of the statutes, relating to the county board of public welfare and the administration of welfare services in counties having a population of 500,000 or more.

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

SECTION 1. 46.21 (1) (c), (2) (a), (c) and (e), (3) (a), and (4) (b) of the statutes are amended to read:

46.21 (1) (c) Said board shall annually elect a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary. The vice-chairman shall serve in the absence of the chairman. The secretary shall be responsible for * * * the minutes of every meeting of said board. * * * The county board shall provide said board with suitable quarters for the transaction of its business.

(2) (a) Such board shall be charged with supervising the operation, maintenance and improvement in each county, by the director of institutions and departments, of the county hospital, dispensary—emergency unit of said hospital, * * * guidance clinic, infirmary, home for * * * children, * * * county asylum, hospital for mental diseases, tuberculosis hospital * * *, department of public welfare created by section 49.51 (2) (a), county agent's department, farm, service departments, and such other institutions and departments as may be placed under the jurisdiction of the board of public welfare by the county board of supervisors, and all buildings and land used in connection with any or all of such institutions. The powers and duties of the board shall be advisory and policy forming only, and not administrative or executive. Such board shall be without authority to adopt policy changes that would increase expenditures beyond budget limitations for the fiscal year, as fixed by the county board of supervisors. Proposed policy changes shall, in all instances, be presented to the director and the finance committee of the county board at the time the department's budget for the ensuing year is being considered.

(e) The board shall appoint a director of institutions and departments pursuant to sections 16.31 to 16.44. Such appointment shall be made on the basis of recognized and demonstrated public interest in and knowledge of the problems of * * * public welfare, and with due regard to training, experience, executive and administrative ability and efficiency, and general qualifications and fitness for performing the duties of the office. * * * Such director shall file an official oath and bond in such sum as shall be fixed by the county board of supervisors. Upon request of the board of public welfare, the county board of supervisors may create 1 or 2 positions of deputy director of institutions and departments.

(e) The county may pay a reasonable fee and the actual travel expense of persons called into consultation by the board as to matters within the field of public welfare.

(3) (a) All of the administrative and executive powers and duties of managing, operating, maintaining and improving the several institutions and departments, specified in subsection (2) (a) of this section and such other institutions and departments as may * * * be placed under the jurisdiction of such board of public welfare and director by the county board of supervisors, shall be vested in such director, to be administered by him under the rules promulgated and subject to the policies and in accordance with the principles established by such county board of public welfare. * * *

(4) (b) Each such department head shall take and file his official oath and execute and file an official bond with the sureties approved and in such sum as shall be fixed by * * * the county board of supervisors.

SECTION 2. 46.21 (4) (d) and (e) of the statutes are repealed.

SECTION 3. 46.21 (6) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

46.21 (6) (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the statutes, expenditures chargeable to appropriations of the county board of public welfare shall be made upon certified vouchers, certified voucher schedules, and certified public assistance rolls of the director of institutions and departments to the county clerk. The county board of supervisors may by ordinance permit said director to delegate his authority to make such certifications to persons under his jurisdiction holding positions designated in such ordinance. The county clerk shall issue county orders upon the county treasurer in payment of such certified instruments, provided that a single county order in favor of the county treasurer may be issued for the total amount authorized on a public assistance roll, in which case the county treasurer shall make individual payments by bank checks to parties listed on such

public assistance rolls, provided further that the county board may by ordinance adopt a different method of making disbursements consistent with sound accounting and auditing procedure.

SECTION 4. 49.51 (2) (a) (introductory paragraph) of the statutes is amended to read:

49.51 (2) (a) (introductory paragraph) *Administration in counties having a population of 500,000.* In counties having a population of 500,000 or more, the administration of welfare services shall be vested in a department of public welfare under the * * * jurisdiction of the county board of public welfare as provided in section 46.21 and in conformity with the provisions of section 49.50. *The director of county institutions and departments shall appoint a director of public welfare and such director of public welfare shall appoint his assistants, provided that the present director of public welfare acting on the effective date of this act shall continue as such director during the balance of his legal tenure.* * * * The civil service status of persons presently appointed to the several welfare services hereinafter listed as of July 3, 1949 is continued. The county department of public welfare shall have the following functions, duties and powers, and such other welfare functions as may be delegated to it:

Approved June 6, 1951.
