

CHAPTER 47.

REHABILITATION AND RELIEF OF BLIND AND DEAF PERSONS.

47.01	Definition of blind.	47.08	Business enterprises program; con-
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[47.01 Stats. 1945 renumbered section 41.72 by 1947 c. 379]

47.01 Definition of blind. As used in this chapter, blind includes persons visually handicapped, as determined by competent medical authority, with the approval of the department. [1947 c. 379]

Comment of Interim Committee, 1947: This definition harmonizes with that in new 41.72(3). (Bill 392-S)

[47.02 Stats. 1945 renumbered section 41.73 by 1947 c. 379]

47.02 Farms at schools for visually handicapped and deaf. The department shall administer the farms connected with the Wisconsin school for the visually handicapped and the Wisconsin school for the deaf. Farm receipts shall be credited and farm expenditures shall be charged to the appropriation of the department. [1947 c. 379]

Comment of Interim Committee, 1947: 47.01, the rest of which is made 41.72 by this This is new in form only. It is part of old bill. (Bill 392-S)

[47.03 Stats. 1945 renumbered section 41.74 by 1947 c. 379]

[47.04 Stats. 1945 renumbered section 41.75 by 1947 c. 379]

[47.045 Stats. 1941 renumbered section 47.01 (2) by 1943 c. 93]

47.05 Division for the blind. (1) **CREATION.** A division for the blind is established in the department of public welfare.

(2) **DUTIES.** The division shall:

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

(b) Keep a record showing the cause of their blindness, their physical, mental and financial condition, their capacity for educational and industrial training, and such other facts as seem proper and valuable.

(c) Ameliorate the condition of the aged or helpless blind by promoting visits to their homes for the purpose of instruction and by other methods.

(d) Provide vocational rehabilitation services to blind persons determined by the division to be eligible therefor.

(e) Study the causes of blindness, learn what proportion of these cases were preventable, and co-operate with the state board of health in adopting and enforcing preventive measures.

(f) Supply the county authorities with information which may assist in the administration of aid to blind persons.

(g) Assist the blind in obtaining employment, and for that purpose it may establish an employment agency.

(h) Maintain schools for industrial training and workshops for the employment of blind persons, pay the employes suitable wages and devise means for the distribution of their products. It may provide or pay for temporary lodging and support for pupils or workmen received at such schools and workshops.

(i) Maintain a trade bureau to supply raw materials to the blind at cost and dispose of the finished products by co-operative marketing.

(3) **WORKSHOPS.** The department shall lease buildings or apartments for workshops and provide them with heat and light and water. The rent and the cost of heat, light and water shall be paid by the state. The department may furnish to workmen in the work-

shops a limited amount of materials and tools required for their employment. [1935 c. 309; 1939 c. 59; 1943 c. 93; 1947 c. 379]

Comment of Interim Committee, 1947: The revision of 47.05 preserves the substance of that section. Even the language, in the main, is retained. The purpose of 47.05 is to afford aids outside of the school at Janesville. The name of this state service is changed from "field agency and workshop" to "division for the blind," in keeping with the general scheme of calling the several branches of the work of the department of public welfare "divisions" and making the divisions statutory. The functions of the two separate "divisions" of the field agency are retained as functions of the division for the blind. "Adult blind" is changed to "blind" because federal aid extends to minors over 16 years old. Appointment of the director of the division is covered by new 46.014 (6) in the bill revising Ch. 46. (Bill 392-S)

47.06 Trainees; workshop and schools; transportation; board. The division may, with the approval of the department, provide means of instruction in a workshop or school to any blind residents of the state who desire to learn a trade; and may provide for or make a reasonable allowance, under the rules and regulations of the division, for the board of indigent blind persons attending the workshop 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. The division may also provide means of transportation from any point within the state for any indigent blind person who is a resident of the state and who desires to avail himself of the privileges of the workshop, schools, and other facilities and services of the division. [1935 c. 309; 1943 c. 93; 1947 c. 379]

[47.07 Stats. 1945 renumbered section 41.76 by 1947 c. 379]

[47.08 Stats. 1943 repealed by 1945 c. 585]

47.08 Business enterprises program; concessions and stands. The division, with the approval of the department, shall be authorized to establish a business enterprise program for the blind. In connection therewith, the division shall be authorized to own, lease, manage, supervise and operate vending stands and other business enterprises for the use or benefit of blind persons in federal, state, private and other buildings. The share of the supervisory and other expenses of this program to be charged to each enterprise shall not exceed 3 per cent of the gross receipts of such enterprise. In other than federal buildings, the ultimate objective of this program shall be to enable blind persons to own and operate their own business enterprises. To this end whenever the blind person shall be able to pay for his equipment and stock, the division shall sell it to him at depreciated cost. The contract between the division and the blind purchaser shall stipulate that, in the event of a subsequent resale, the division shall have the option of repurchasing the enterprise, together with all its assets, at a valuation to be fixed by arbitration. [1947 c. 379]

[47.09 Stats. 1937 repealed by 1939 c. 513 s. 12]

47.09 State concessions; blind persons. The concession stands in the state capitol and in the state office building shall be leased to and operated by blind persons chosen and supervised by the department. The lessees shall have the right to purchase the stock and equipment on the terms which are set forth in section 47.08, and to operate them independently. The contract of sale between the division and the lessee shall stipulate that, in the event of a subsequent resale, the department shall have the option of repurchasing the enterprise, together with all its assets, at a valuation to be fixed by arbitration. It shall further stipulate that if, at the expiration of any term of lease, the lessor shall consider the blind lessee to be unsatisfactory, the latter shall resell to the department, the price to be fixed by arbitration. In such event, the department shall select another blind operator as lessee. [1945 c. 588; 1947 c. 379]

47.095 Advisory committee of the blind. (1) There shall be created an advisory committee of the blind to be composed of 6 members. Three of such members shall act as an advisory committee to the board of public welfare, and the other 3 members shall act as an advisory committee to the state superintendent of public instruction. The board of public welfare and state superintendent shall each appoint their committees of 3 members for terms of 2, 4 and 6 years respectively. Thereafter each member shall be appointed for a term of 6 years. Appointments shall be made on the basis of recognized interest in and a demonstrated knowledge of the problems of the visually handicapped. All members of the committee shall be visually handicapped. The committee appointed by the board of public welfare and the committee appointed by the state superintendent of public instruction shall make recommendations as to procedures and policies affecting any problem of the visually handicapped before such respective department. The entire committee shall advise on such services, activities, programs, investigations and researches as in their judgment shall contribute to the welfare of visually handicapped persons.

(2) The term "visually handicapped" shall be construed to include all persons having a visual acuity equal or less than 20/70 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or whose visual acuity is greater than 20/70 in the better eye with correcting lenses, but is accom-

panied by a limitation in the field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle no greater than 20 degrees. [1947 c. 305]

[47.10 Stats. 1921 repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]

47.10 Co-operation with federal government. The department, through the division, shall co-operate, pursuant to agreements, with the federal government in carrying out the purposes of any federal statutes pertaining to vocational rehabilitation of the blind and is authorized to adopt such methods of administration as are found by the federal government to be necessary for the proper and efficient operation of such agreements or plans for vocational rehabilitation of the blind and to comply with such conditions as may be necessary to secure the full benefits of such federal statutes. [1947 c. 379]

[47.105 Stats. 1921 repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]

[47.11 Stats. 1921 repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]

[47.12 Stats. 1933 repealed by 1935 c. 309]

[47.135 Stats. 1921 repealed by 1923 c. 355 s. 1]