

CH. 181.]

## CHAPTER XC.

[S. F. 282.]

## WEBSTER COUNTY.

AN ACT to Amend Chapter 138 [Lxi.], Acts of the Fourteenth General Assembly, and Attaching Webster County to the Eleventh Judicial District. APRIL 28.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, That chapter 138 [Lxi.], acts of the Fourteenth General Assembly, be and the same is amended as follows: Strike out the word "Webster," in the third section, also the words "and Eleventh," in the seventh section, in the fourth and fourteenth line[s] (of the original bill), and insert the word "and" before the word "fifth," as it occurred in each of said lines. Webster county changed from 4th to 11th judicial district.  
1872: ch. LXL.

SEC. 2. Webster county is hereby returned to and attached to the Eleventh Judicial District for judicial purposes, and all acts or parts of acts, inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed. Inf orce when.

SEC. 3. This act, being deemed of immediate importance by the General Assembly, shall take effect from and after its publication in the Iowa State Register, and Iowa State Leader, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Approved, April 23d, 1872.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Daily Iowa State Register*, April 28, and in the *Iowa State Leader*, May 2, 1872.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State.*

CH. 183.]

## CHAPTER XCI.

[H. F. 163.]

## OFFICIAL VISITATION OF HOSPITALS FOR THE INSANE.

AN ACT to Protect the Insane.

APRIL 28.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, That there shall be a Visiting Committee of three appointed by the Governor, to visit the Insane asylums of the State at their discretion, with power to send for persons and papers, and to examine witnesses on oath, to ascertain whether any of the Committee to be appointed by Governor to visit Insane Hospitals.

**Powers of same.** inmates are improperly detained in the Hospital, or unjustly placed there, and whether the inmates are humanely and kindly treated, with full power to correct any abuses found to exist; and any injury inflicted upon the insane shall be treated as an offense, misdemeanor, or crime, as the like offense would be regarded when inflicted upon any other citizen outside of the insane asylums. They shall have power to discharge any attendant or employee who is found to have been guilty of misdemeanor meriting such discharge; and in all these trials for misdemeanor, offense, or crime, the testimony of patients shall be taken and considered for what it is worth, and no employee at the asylum shall be allowed to sit upon any jury before whom these cases are tried. Said Committee shall make an annual report to the Governor of the State.

**Address of members of Committee to be posted.** **Sec. 2.** The names of this Visiting Committee, and their post-office address, shall be kept posted in every ward in the asylum, and every inmate in the asylum shall be allowed to write when and *what they* [he] please to this committee, and to any other person *they* [he] may choose: *Provided,* The Superintendent may, if he thinks proper, send letters addressed to other parties to the Visiting Committee for inspection before forwarded to the individual addressed. And any member of this Committee who shall neglect to heed the calls of the patient to him for protection, when proved to have been needed, shall be deemed unfit for his office, and shall be discharged by the Governor.

**Stationery to be furnished inmates of hospitals once a week,** **Sec. 3.** Each and every person, confined in any insane asylum within the State of Iowa, shall be furnished by the Superintendent or party having charge of such person, at least once in each week while so confined, with suitable materials for writing, inclosing, sealing, and mailing letters: *Provided,* They request the same, unless otherwise ordered by the Visiting Committee, which order shall continue in force until countermanded by said Committee.

**Supt. to transmit one letter a week, unopened, for each patient, if desired.** **Sec. 4.** It is hereby made the duty of the Superintendent or party having charge of any person under confinement to receive, if requested to do so by the person so confined, at least one letter in each week without opening or reading the same, and without delay to deposit it in a post-office for transmittal, by mail, with a proper postage-stamp affixed thereto.

**Sec. 5.** It is hereby made the duty of the Superintendent, or party having charge of any person confined on

account of insanity, to deliver to said person any letter or writing to him or her directed, without opening or reading the same: *Provided*, This letter has been forwarded by this Visiting Committee.

Letters forwarded by Visiting Committee to be delivered to patient unopened

SEC. 6. In the event of the sudden and mysterious death of any person so confined, a coroner's inquest shall be held as provided for by law in other cases.

Coroner's inquest in case of sudden death.

SEC. 7. Any person neglecting to comply with, or willfully and knowingly violating any of the provisions of this act, shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court, and by ineligibility for this office in future, and, upon trial had for such offense, the testimony of any person, whether insane or otherwise, shall be taken and considered for what it is worth.

Penalty for non-compliance, or violation of this act.

SEC. 8. At least one member of said committee shall visit the asylums for the insane every month.

Hospital to be visited every month.

SEC. 9. That there shall be allowed, as salary of such Visiting Committee, the sum of five dollars per day for the time taken in visiting such Insane asylums, and the same mileage as is now by law allowed members of the General Assembly. And the disbursing officer of such Insane asylum shall pay the per diem and mileage allowed such Visiting Committee under the provisions of this act, and each member of such Visiting Committee shall certify under oath to such disbursing officer, the number of days he has served, and the number of miles traveled.

Pay and mileage.

How paid.

SEC. 10. This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after two weeks, publication in the Daily Iowa State Register, and Leader, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

In force when.

Approved, April 23d, 1872.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published for two weeks, in the *Daily State Leader*, commencing April 25, and in the *Daily Iowa State Register*, commencing April 26, 1872.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State*.