

County and Township Organization.
November 21, 1933.

House File No. 112.
By MILLHONÉ and SPEIDEL (Hicklin).

✓ State University
✓ Medical Aid
✓ County Affairs

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend chapter one hundred ninety-nine (199), Code, 1931, by inserting after section four thousand eighteen (4018) a new section; to amend sections four thousand twenty-five (4025), four thousand twenty-six (4026) and four thousand twenty-eight (4028), Code, 1931; and to repeal sections four thousand ten (4010), four thousand twelve (4012), four thousand sixteen (4016), four thousand seventeen (4017), and four thousand twenty-one (4021), Code, 1931, and to enact substitutes therefor, all relating to the treatment of indigent persons.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Section four thousand ten (4010), Code, 1931,
2 is repealed and the following substituted therefor:
3 "When such complaint is filed, the clerk shall furnish
4 the county attorney and board of supervisors with a copy thereof
5 and said board shall, by the overseer of the poor or such other
6 agent as it may select, make a thorough investigation of facts
7 as to the legal residence of the patient, and the ability of
8 the patient or others chargeable with his support to pay the
9 expense of such treatment and care; and shall file a report of
10 such investigation in the office of the clerk, at or before the
11 time of hearing."

1 Sec. 2. Section four thousand twelve (4012), Code,
2 1931, is repealed and the following substituted therefor:
3 "The county attorney and the overseer of the poor, or
4 other agent of the board of supervisors of the county where
5 the hearing is held, shall appear thereat. The complainant,

6 the county attorney, the overseer of the poor or other agent
7 of the board of supervisors, and the patient, or any person
8 representing him, or her, may introduce evidence and be
9 heard. If the court finds that said patient is a legal resi-
10 dent of Iowa and is pregnant or is suffering from a malady
11 or deformity which can probably be improved or cured or
12 advantageously treated by medical or surgical treatment or
13 hospital care, and that neither the patient nor any person
14 legally chargeable with his or her support is able to pay
15 the expenses thereof, then the clerk of court, except in
16 obstetrical cases and cases of crippled children, shall
17 immediately ascertain from the admitting physician at the
18 university hospital whether such person can be received as
19 a patient within a period of thirty days, and if the patient
20 can be so received, the court shall then enter an order direct-
21 ing that said patient be sent to the university hospital for
22 proper medical and surgical treatment and hospital care. If
23 the court ascertain, excepting in obstetrical cases and ortho-
24 pedic cases, that a person of the age or sex of the patient,
25 or afflicted by the complaint, disease or deformity with which
26 such person is affected cannot be received as a patient at the
27 said university hospital within the period of thirty days, then
28 he shall enter an order directing the board of supervisors of
29 the county to provide adequate treatment at county expense
30 for said patient at home or in a hospital. Obstetrical cases
31 and orthopedic cases may be committed to the university hospital

32 without regard to the limiting period of thirty days hereinbefore
33 stated.

34 “In any case of emergency the court without previous in-
35 quiry may at its discretion order the patient to be immediately
36 taken to and accepted by the university hospital for the nec-
37 essary care as provided in section four thousand fourteen (4014),
38 Code, 1931, herein, but if such a patient cannot be immediately
39 accepted at the university hospital as ascertained by telephone
40 if necessary, the court may enter an order as in certain cases
41 above set forth directing the board of supervisors to provide
42 adequate treatment at county expense for the said patient at
43 home or in a hospital.

44 “On the date this act becomes effective the commitments of
45 all persons then waiting for treatment at the university hospital
46 are hereby cancelled. Should commitments be applied for on be-
47 half of any of those said patients within six months thereafter,
48 they may be committed without regard to the thirty day provision
49 of the preceding paragraph and they shall have preference as to
50 sixty (60) per cent of the beds of the university hospital avail-
51 able for the use of indigent patients.”

1 Sec. 3. Section four thousand sixteen (4016), Code, 1931,
2 is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

3 “If the physician appointed to examine the patient shall
4 certify that an attendant to accompany the patient to the said
5 hospital is necessary, and the university hospital attendant and
6 ambulance service is not available, then the court or judge may

7 appoint an attendant who shall receive not exceeding two dollars
8 (\$2.00) per day for the time thus necessarily employed and actual
9 necessary traveling expenses by the most feasible route to said
10 hospital whether by ambulance, train or automobile; but if such
11 appointee is a relative of the patient or a member of his
12 immediate family, or receives a salary or other compensation
13 from the public for his services, no such per diem compen-
14 sation shall be paid him. The physician appointed by the
15 court to make the examination and report shall receive there-
16 for three dollars (\$3.00) for each examination and report so
17 made and his actual necessary expenses incurred in making
18 such examination, but if said physician receives a salary or
19 other compensation from the public for his full time services,
20 then no such examination fee shall be paid. The actual, nec-
21 essary expenses of transporting and caring for the patient
22 shall be paid as hereinafter provided.”

1 Sec. 4. Section four thousand seventeen (4017), Code, 1931,
2 is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

3 “An itemized, verified statement of all charges provided
4 for in the preceding section and in section two (2) hereof,
5 in cases where the patient is admitted or accepted for treatment
6 at the university hospital shall be filed with the superintend-
7 ent of the university hospital, and upon his recommendation when
8 approved by the judge under whose order the same were incurred,
9 they shall be charged on the regular bill for the maintenance,
10 transportation and treatment of the patient, and be audited and

11 paid in the manner as hereinafter provided.”

1 Sec. 5. Section four thousand twenty-one (4021), Code, 1931,
2 is repealed and the following substituted therefor :

3 “Treatment of other patients. The university hospital
4 authorities may at their discretion receive into the hospital
5 for medical, obstetrical or surgical treatment or hospital care,
6 patients not committed thereto under the provisions of this
7 chapter ; but the treatment or care of such patients shall not
8 in any way interfere with the proper medical or surgical treat-
9 ment or hospital care of committed patients.

10 All of the provisions of this chapter except as to com-
11 mitment of patients shall apply to such patients. The university
12 hospital authorities shall collect from the person or persons
13 liable for the support of such patients reasonable charges for
14 hospital care and service and deposit the same with the treas-
15 urer of the university for the use and benefit of the university
16 hospital. Earnings of the hospital whether from private patients,
17 cost patients, or indigents shall be administered so as to increase
18 as much as possible, the service available for indigents.”

1 Sec. 6. Section four thousand twenty-five (4025), Code,
2 1931, is amended by adding after the period in line six (6)
3 thereof the following :

4 “If the physician, surgeon or nurse is not in the regular
5 employ of the state board of education, his or her compensation
6 shall be paid by the county upon approval of the board of super-
7 visors.”

1 Sec. 7. Section four thousand twenty-six (4026), Code,
2 1931, is amended by striking out all of the section follow-
3 ing the period in line seven (7) and inserting in lieu thereof
4 the following:

5 “But he shall render separate bills showing the actual
6 cost of all appliances, instruments, x-ray and other special
7 services used in connection with such treatment, commitments,
8 and transportation to and from the said university hospital,
9 including the expenses of attendants and escorts.

10 “All purchases of materials, appliances, instruments and
11 supplies by said university hospital, in cases where more than
12 one hundred dollars (\$100.00) is to be expended, and where
13 the price of the commodity or commodities to be purchased
14 are subject to competition, shall be upon open competitive
15 quotations, and all contracts therefor shall be subject to
16 the provisions of chapter sixty-two (62), Code, 1931.”

1 Sec. 8. Chapter one hundred ninety-nine (199), Code,
2 1931, is amended by inserting after section four thousand
3 eighteen (4018) thereof, the following:

4 “4018-f1. County Quotas. Subject to subsequent qualifi-
5 cations in this section, there shall be treated at the univer-
6 sity hospital during each fiscal year a number of committed
7 indigent patients from each county which shall bear the same
8 relation to the total number of committed indigent patients
9 admitted during the year as the population of such county shall
10 bear to the total population of the state according to the last

11 preceding census. This standard shall apply to indigent patients,
12 the expenses of whose commitment transportation, care and treat-
13 ment shall be borne by appropriated funds and shall not govern
14 the admission of either obstetrical or orthopedic patients. If
15 the number of patients admitted from any county shall exceed by
16 more than ten per cent the county quota as fixed and ascertained
17 under the first sentence of this section, the charges and expenses
18 of the care and treatment of such patients in excess of ten per
19 cent of the quota shall be paid from the funds of such county at
20 actual cost ; but if the number of excess patients from any county
21 shall not exceed ten per cent, all costs, expenses, and charges
22 incurred in their behalf shall be paid from the appropriation
23 for the support of the hospital.”

1 Sec. 9. Section four thousand twenty-eight (4028), Code,
2 1931, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following :

3 “The superintendent of the said university hospital shall
4 certify to the auditor of state on the first day of January,
5 April, July and October of each year, the amount as herein
6 provided not previously certified by him due the state from
7 the several counties having patients chargeable thereto, and
8 the auditor of state shall thereupon charge the same to the
9 county so owing. A duplicate certificate shall also be mailed
10 to the auditor of each county having patients chargeable
11 thereto.

12 “The county auditor, upon receipt of such certificate,
13 shall thereupon enter the same to the credit of the state in

14 his ledger of state accounts, and at once issue a notice to his
15 county treasurer authorizing him to transfer the amount from the
16 poor or county fund to the general state revenue, which notice
17 shall be filed by the treasurer as his authority for making such
18 transfer; and he shall include the amount so transferred in his
19 next remittance of state taxes to the treasurer of state,
20 designating the fund to which it belongs.

21 “The state auditor shall certify the total cost of commit-
22 ment, transportation and caring for such indigent patient under
23 the terms of this statute to the county auditor of such patient’s
24 legal residence, and such certificate shall be preserved by
25 the county auditor and shall be a debt due from the patient or
26 the persons legally responsible for his or her care, maintenance
27 or support; and whenever in the judgment of the board of
28 supervisors the same or any part thereof shall be collectible,
29 the said board may in its own name collect the same and is
30 hereby authorized to institute suits for such purpose; and
31 after deducting the county’s share of such cost shall cause
32 the balance to be paid into the state treasury.”

1 Sec. 10. This act being deemed of immediate importance
2 shall be in full force and effect from and after its publica-
3 tion in the Washington Evening Journal of Washington, Iowa,
4 and the Evening Sentinel of Shenandoah, Iowa.

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15 county treasurer authorizing him to transfer the amount from the
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18 transfer; and he shall include the amount so transferred in his
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20 to accrue to the credit of the university hospital fund.

21 “The state auditor shall certify the total cost of commit-
22 ment, transportation and caring for each indigent patient under
23 the terms of this statute to the county auditor of such patient’s
24 legal residence, and such certificate shall be preserved by
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sity hospital fund.”

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