

Reported Recommending.....
Ind. Postponed.....
Passed House.....
Failed to Pass House.....
Passed Senate.....
Failed to Pass Senate.....

House File 549

March 31, 1941.
To Sifting Committee.

By COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend chapter three hundred forty-five (345), Code, 1939, to establish a state institution fund in each county, to provide for the levy of taxes for said fund, the determination of the amount of said levy and the disbursement of said fund in discharge of expenses incurred by counties in maintaining patients, including cost of commitment and transportation of patients, at Mount Pleasant State Hospital for the Insane, Independence State Hospital for the Insane, Clarinda State Hospital for the Insane, Cherokee State Hospital for the Insane, the State Sanitorium for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Oakdale, the Glenwood State School for the Feeble-minded, the Hospital for Epileptics and School for Feeble-minded at Woodward, the Iowa Juvenile Home at Toledo, the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans Home at Davenport, the School for the Blind at Vinton, the School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs and the State Psychopathic Hospital at Iowa City, and to amend sections three thousand four hundred six (3406), three thousand, four hundred eighty-two and twenty-one hundredths (3482.21), three thousand six hundred one (3601), three thousand seven hundred three (3703), three thousand seven hundred twenty (3720), four thousand seventy-four (4074), Code, 1939; and to repeal sections three thousand four hundred seventy-seven and seven-tenths (3477.7), three thousand six hundred three (3603), Code, 1939, and to enact substitutes therefor; all relating to the payment of the expenses of maintaining persons at county expense in such state institutions and to provide that said costs shall be paid from the state institution fund herein created.

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

1 Section 1. That chapter three hundred forty-five (345), Code,
2 1939, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 “The board of supervisors for each county shall establish
4 a state institution fund and shall at the time of levying other
5 taxes, estimate the amount necessary to meet the expense in the
6 coming year of maintaining county patients, including cost of
7 commitment and transportation of patients at the Mount Pleasant
8 state hospital for the insane, Independence state hospital for
9 the insane, Cherokee state hospital for the insane, Clarinda
10 state hospital for the insane, the state sanitorium for the treatment
11 of tuberculosis at Oakdale, the Glenwood state school for the
12 feeble-minded, the hospital for epileptics and school for
13 feeble-minded at Woodward, the Iowa juvenile home at Toledo, the
14 Iowa soldiers’ orphans home at Davenport, the school for the
15 blind at Vinton, the school for the deaf at Council Bluffs, and
16 the state psychopathic hospital at Iowa City, and shall levy a
17 tax therefor. Said fund shall not be diverted to any other
18 purpose. Should any county fail to levy a tax sufficient to
19 meet this expense the deficiency shall be paid from the general
20 county fund.”

1 Sec. 2. Section three thousand four hundred six (3406), Code,
2 1939, is hereby amended by striking the period after the word
3 “state” in line nine (9) and inserting the following:

4 “, which amount shall be charged to and paid from the state
5 institution fund.”

1 Sec. 3. Section three thousand four hundred seventy-seven

2 and seven-tenths (3477.7), Code, 1939, is hereby repealed and the
3 following is enacted in lieu thereof:

4 “All expenses required to be paid by counties for the support,
5 cost of commitment and transportation of patients in this
6 hospital, shall be paid by the board of supervisors from the
7 state institution fund.”

1 Sec. 4. Section three thousand four hundred eighty-two
2 and twenty-one hundredths (3482.21), Code, 1939, is hereby
3 amended by striking all of said section after the word “paid”
4 in line eight (8) and inserting in lieu thereof, the following:

5 “from the state institution fund.”

1 Sec. 5. Section three thousand six hundred one (3601), Code,
2 1939, is hereby amended by striking the words “insane or county”
3 in line six (6) thereof and inserting in lieu thereof the words
4 “state institution”.

1 Sec. 6. Section three thousand six hundred three (3603), Code,
2 1939, is hereby repealed and the following is enacted in lieu
3 thereof:

4 “All expenses required to be paid by counties for the care,
5 commitment and transportation of insane patients in state hospitals,
6 shall be paid by the board of supervisors from the state institution
7 fund.”

1 Sec. 7. Section three thousand seven hundred three (3703),
2 Code, 1939, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “county”
3 in line thirteen (13) thereof, the following:

4 “from the state institution fund”.

1 Sec. 8. Section three thousand seven hundred twenty (3720),
2 Code, 1939, is hereby amended by inserting after the word “county”
3 in line nine (9) the following:
4 “from the state institution fund”.

1 Sec. 9. Section four thousand seventy-four (4074), Code, 1939,
2 is hereby amended by striking the words “general county” in
3 in line six (6), and inserting in lieu thereof the words “state
4 institution”.

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 549

Present costs of county patients in the state institutions named in the bill are now being paid by counties from three sources—the state insane fund of each county, the county general fund and the county poor fund. Code provisions at present are inconsistent and confusing as to the source of funds counties should use to pay for county patients in these state institutions.

Present law results in counties charging wrong funds in many instances and state auditor must correct bookkeeping of counties each year. When county funds are not properly charged the state auditor recommends that transfers of amounts of these funds be made to correct error. It sometimes happens that balance in funds will not permit corrective transfers and legalizing act is necessary.

This bill proposes that each county levy for a “state institution fund” enough taxes to care for the cost of county patients in the named state institutions. No new tax levy is proposed. Under this bill present county levy for state insane fund is eliminated and county general fund and county poor fund levies will be reduced by transferring expense for patients now paid therefrom to the “state institution fund” Amount of levy for “state institution fund” will be based on history in each county of prior year costs. Any deficiency will be payable from general fund.

The result of passage of this bill will be to simplify county bookkeeping, reduce the auditing expense of the state auditor’s office and eliminate all confusion now existing as only the “state institution fund” will be used as the source of funds from which counties will pay the county patient cost for these state institutions.