

CHAPTER 103

RELIEF OF POOR AND UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE. "STAMP-NOTE" ACT

H. F. 199

AN ACT to provide a plan for the relief of poor and unemployed people; to provide for the adoption of a plan of payment with "stamp-notes" by counties, and to declare the duties and liabilities of counties adopting said plan and to fix the rights and liabilities under said plan.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 SECTION 1. For the purpose of providing poor relief and employ-
2 ment, the board of supervisors may, upon the petition of a number
3 of qualified voters equal to two per cent of the votes cast for governor
4 at the last preceding general election, adopt the plan of payment
5 hereinafter called the "stamp-note" plan, and may adopt this plan
6 upon petition of fifty-one per cent (51%) of the regularly established
7 merchants of such county.

8 a. In counties where any city with a population of more than
9 twenty thousand (20,000) is located, immediately after the adoption
10 of the "stamp-note" plan by the board of supervisors, a committee
11 of three members shall be appointed as follows:

12 One member of the board of supervisors by the board of supervisors,
13 one member of the city or town council, or commission, of the county-
14 seat by the city or town council or commission of the countyseat, and
15 the third member shall be selected by the two thus appointed. This
16 committee shall be known as the "county stamp-note committee" and
17 shall receive all applications for allotment of stamp notes. Such
18 application shall be made only by counties, cities or towns or poor
19 relief agencies created by statute. Upon approval of said application
20 by said committee the county treasurer shall upon order of said com-
21 mittee, issue to said county, city, or town, or poor relief agency
22 created by statute, stamp-notes in the amount approved by said com-
23 mittee. The stamp-note committee shall elect one of their members
24 as chairman, and shall furnish application blanks to all authorized
25 agencies desiring to make application for the use of stamp-notes and
26 shall keep a record of all such applications and their action thereon.

27 b. The county, city or town (administration) shall not be liable
28 under the workmen's compensation act of the state of Iowa or other
29 employer's liability acts of the state of Iowa, for any injury or damage
30 suffered by anyone employed under the terms of this act and paid in
31 the new issue of stamp-notes.

1 SEC. 2. The notes used in payment for the purposes mentioned
2 in preceding section shall be numbered serially and shall read as
3 follows:

4 "Number..... Iowa ..... 19...
5 (Name of County)

6 This note is good for one dollar (\$1.00) in merchandise or services
7 provided bearer will affix one two cent redemption stamp on the back
8 hereof. The county of ....., Iowa, will redeem this note
9 when fifty (50) redemption stamps, sold by the county for this pur-
10 pose, are so attached, for one dollar in cash.

11 County Auditor..... County Treasurer.....

12 The redemption limit of this note is three (3) years after date issued."

13 a. On reverse side of this note shall be provided blocked spaces  
14 to attach fifty (50) two cent redemption stamps sold by the county  
15 for this purpose. These spaces shall be numbered from one (1) to  
16 fifty (50) and at one end of the note, not to be covered by these  
17 stamps shall be printed:

18 "At each transaction user will buy a two cent redemption stamp,  
19 and sign his initials across the word "holder", and the receiver will  
20 sign his initials across the word "receiver", in each other's presence."  
21 Underneath the figures forty-nine (49) and fifty (50) on this side  
22 of the note shall be printed:

23 "The forty-ninth (49) stamp attached to this note must be dated  
24 in addition to placing initials thereon, and this note must be presented  
25 for payment within thirty (30) days thereafter or become null and  
26 void."

27 The stamps shall be affixed on the spaces indicated, starting on  
28 number 1, and so on consecutively until space number 50 is covered.

29 b. The stamps shall be made of suitable size so that fifty (50)  
30 of them may be attached to the notes described in the preceding para-  
31 graph a. At the top of the stamp the word "holder" shall be printed,  
32 and at the bottom of the stamp the word "receiver" shall be printed.  
33 The figure two (2) indicating denomination of the stamp shall appear  
34 in each corner thereof. The name of the county issuing them shall  
35 appear in the center across the face of the stamp.

36 c. It shall be lawful for the board of supervisors, in counties  
37 where cities of more than twenty thousand (20,000) population are  
38 located, to issue stamp-notes of five and ten dollar (\$5.00 and \$10.00)  
39 denominations with stamps of ten and twenty (10 and 20) cents each,  
40 respectively.

41 d. At each transaction both parties shall affix their initials to the  
42 redemption stamp. The holder will initial across the word "holder",  
43 and the receiver across the word "receiver". This will provide a set  
44 of initials, the one on bottom matching the one on top of following  
45 stamp, establishing the legal title necessary to cash this note as pro-  
46 vided in section 5 and 5-a.

1 SEC. 3. The county treasurer shall be the custodian of the notes  
2 and stamps. He will at all times keep a sufficient supply of redemp-  
3 tion stamps on hand for the convenience of the public and keep ac-  
4 curate account of the notes, and stamps on hand or consigned by him  
5 to other agencies; also, of the proceeds of the sale of these stamps.

1 SEC. 4. Any person imitating or counterfeiting either the notes  
2 or stamps, herein provided, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary or  
3 in the men's or women's reformatory for not more than ten years,  
4 or be fined not exceeding three hundred dollars and be imprisoned in  
5 the county jail not exceeding one year.

1 SEC. 5. It shall be lawful for banks in the state of Iowa to accept  
2 said notes, issued by the several counties, in exchange for bank credit  
3 or currency, regardless of the number of stamps attached. In this  
4 particular transaction, the party presenting the note for cash shall  
5 accept a two per cent discount in addition to the discount he would  
6 suffer by attaching a redemption stamp; or receiving ninety-six (96)

7 cents in cash. In this transaction the casher of the note shall not  
8 be compelled to affix a stamp, but the cashing agency shall mark the  
9 last stamp affixed with the word "cashed" in order to explain the  
10 break in signatures.

11 a. The banks accepting notes for cashing shall not accept these  
12 when a break in such initials appears, and holders of such notes shall  
13 not be able to cash same, until all the fifty stamps have been attached.

14 b. Banks shall accept these notes only from regularly established  
15 business houses in amounts of not less than twenty-five dollars  
16 (\$25.00). Banks are authorized to dispose of these notes to their  
17 customers at ninety-seven (97) cents. In disposing of notes to their  
18 customers, banks will not be required to affix stamps thereto.

19 c. Anyone presenting a note for a purchase of less than one dollar,  
20 shall be charged with the two cents which the receiver shall have to  
21 affix in disposing of same; in which case the net purchasing power of  
22 such note amounts to ninety-six (96) cents to such holder.

1 SEC. 6. Anyone presenting to the issuing county treasurer such  
2 note with fifty redemption stamps attached will receive in exchange,  
3 one dollar in cash, provided section 7 has been complied with.

1 SEC. 7. The forty-ninth (49) stamp attached to the note shall be  
2 dated by receiver in addition to the initials placed thereon, and such  
3 note must be presented for cashing within thirty days after said date,  
4 or become null and void.

1 SEC. 8. It shall be lawful for the county treasurer to exchange  
2 county funds for notes held by the cashing bankers within the county  
3 of such county treasurer, in excess of what they can dispose of to  
4 their customers, at the rate of ninety-seven (97) cents for each note  
5 so exchanged.

6 a. The school funds in depository banks shall be available for the  
7 purpose mentioned in the preceding paragraph of this section. The  
8 trustees, or trustee, of these funds is, or are, hereby authorized to  
9 effect this exchange.

10 b. The profit accruing to the county in the transaction described  
11 in section 8 and 8-a shall be used by the county as an offset to the  
12 expense of providing notes and stamps.

13 c. The bank disposing of surplus notes to the county at a one per  
14 cent profit shall in return therefor, act as an agency for the sale of  
15 redemption stamps. These stamps shall be consigned to them by the  
16 county treasurer. The funds derived from the sale of these stamps  
17 shall be forwarded to the county treasurer at the end of each week.

18 d. The county treasurer or any other disbursing officer of notes derived  
19 under the provisions of section 8 and 8-a shall affix the required re-  
20 demption stamps before paying them out as provided in section 9.

1 SEC. 9. Any and all of the employment contracts between the  
2 county and school districts and its employees shall include the provi-  
3 sion that their salaries, or such part thereof as the board of super-  
4 visors deems advisable, may be paid to them in the form of the notes  
5 mentioned and described in this act. No unstamped notes shall be  
6 used for this purpose, which shall not have first been in circulation  
7 and have had one or more stamps affixed thereto.

1 SEC. 10. Wherever a county adopts the stamp-note plan for poor  
2 relief and/or for providing employment, the entire assessment for  
3 poor relief and such employment may be dispensed with, reducing the  
4 taxes, otherwise devoted to that purpose, to this extent, if deemed  
5 advisable and at the discretion of the board of supervisors.

6 a. Upon the adoption of the county stamp-note plan no charitable  
7 aid or poor relief shall be extended by counties or municipalities to  
8 any able bodied person except in exchange for work.

1 SEC. 11. Anyone desiring to be employed by the board of super-  
2 visors or any city or town, or other agencies authorized by statute  
3 to dispense poor relief funds, under the provisions of this act shall  
4 make application to them for work, stating his qualifications, age, and  
5 number of dependents. The board of supervisors, or city or town, or  
6 other authorized agency, in providing work, shall consider fitness and  
7 need of applicant, using their best judgment in providing employ-  
8 ment and shall employ only legal residents of the county.

9 a. The rate of pay for work provided under this act shall not be  
10 less than two dollars (\$2.00) per day of eight hours duration. All  
11 disbursements to or for poor relief may be in the form of these notes  
12 at the rates provided by law.

13 b. The employment created by the board of supervisors, or city  
14 or town, or other authorized agency which is to be paid for by the  
15 first payment of each issue of stamp-notes shall be for work per-  
16 formed in the interest of the county, or city or town, such as building  
17 or improving county or city or town buildings, streets, roads, bridges,  
18 or other county or city or town work.

19 c. It shall also be lawful for the board of supervisors to arrange  
20 with private owners of property to have their property improved.  
21 The owner in this case shall provide the materials necessary and the  
22 work shall be paid for with stamp notes by the county. The amount  
23 so paid by the county shall not exceed the amount of material used  
24 on such project and the amount of stamp notes paid out in behalf  
25 of such owner shall not exceed \$100.00. The amount paid out by the  
26 county in this form shall constitute a loan to such private owner and  
27 the interest on same shall be six per cent per annum until paid. The  
28 loan may be paid back to the county at the rate of \$10.00 per annum  
29 plus accrued interest or the whole loan may be paid before such due  
30 date.

31 d. In case of greater demand for workers, under preceding sub-  
32 section, than the board of supervisors can provide, the applicants'  
33 names shall be placed in a receptacle, and the names of property own-  
34 ers drawn by lot therefrom by the county clerk, shall be preferred  
35 in the order drawn.

1 SEC. 12. It is within the discretion of the board of supervisors to  
2 discontinue the provisions named in the last preceding subsections c  
3 and d, when, in its judgment, employment conditions are such as  
4 would not indicate the further need of stimulating employment by  
5 performing work for private owners.

1 SEC. 13. In order to have uniform notes and stamps, the state  
2 of Iowa will print such notes and stamps upon suitable paper, properly  
3 engraved, and provide them at cost to the counties desiring to use

4 the stamp-note plan. The name of the county shall be printed on both  
5 notes and stamps, by the state in the spaces provided therefor under  
6 section 2, a, b, and c, and the colors of such printing shall be different  
7 from any of the colors used in the United States currency.

8 a. After the adoption of the stamp-note plan by any county, no  
9 municipality therein shall use any stamp-note plan or plan similar  
10 thereto except such plan as adopted by the county. Any organization  
11 or municipality using a stamp-note plan at the time of adoption of  
12 a county-wide, stamp-note plan may redeem the unstamped portion  
13 of their notes by exchanging them for the first issue of county notes.

1 SEC. 14. Whenever, in the judgment of the board of supervisors  
2 conditions become such that there is less than one per cent unemploy-  
3 ment in the county, the use of the plan may be discontinued by the  
4 board of supervisors, whereupon a suitable levy of taxes for poor  
5 relief shall be again authorized by them.

1 SEC. 15. Wherever a county adopts the stamp-note plan the ad-  
2 ministration of cities and towns located in such county shall cooperate  
3 with the board of supervisors by:

4 a. City and town employees shall regard as part of their employ-  
5 ment contract, and be bound by provision in section 9.

6 b. Exchanging city or town funds as provided for the county under  
7 section 8 and 8-a and clerk shall act in lieu of county treasurer as  
8 provided in section 8-d. The profit in this transaction shall go to the  
9 treasury of such city or town.

10 c. Appointing the city or town clerk's office as a selling agency  
11 for the stamps.

1 SEC. 16. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions  
2 of this act are hereby suspended.

1 SEC. 17. This act shall not be valid or become operative until the  
2 holder, owner, or owners of any copyright or copyrights covering the  
3 subject matter thereof, shall transfer, set-over and assign to the state  
4 of Iowa, any and all rights of such holder, owner, or owners, derived  
5 under such copyright or copyrights, insofar as it affects the use by  
6 the citizens, groups of citizens, or the state or any subdivision thereof.  
7 The actual cost of such copyright or copyrights shall be reimbursed  
8 to the said holder, owner, or owners.

1 SEC. 18. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall be  
2 in full force and effect from and after the publication thereof in the  
3 Hawarden Chronicle, a newspaper published at Hawarden, Iowa, and  
4 in the Boyden Reporter, a newspaper published at Boyden, Iowa.

House File No. 199. Approved February 25, 1933.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Hawarden Chronicle,  
March 9, 1933, and the Boyden Reporter, March 9, 1933.

MRS. ALEX MILLER, *Secretary of State.*

Note: References in the above act to so-called "sections", such as will be found in  
section two (2), line forty-six (46), to "section 5-a", are intended to be made to the  
lettered subsections of the numbered sections, for example, *subsection a of section 5*.  
These references will be found in lines eleven (11) and nineteen (19) of section eight  
(8), line six (6) of section thirteen (13), and lines seven (7) and eight (8) of section  
fifteen (15).