

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 1, OF TITLE ELEVEN, OF THE CODE IN REFERENCE TO THE RELIEF OF THE POOR, AND THE MANNER OF OBTAINING THE SAME, AND PROVIDING CRIMINAL PUNISHMENT FOR THE VIOLATION OF THIS ACT.

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

SECTION 1. That in all cases when application is made for relief under the provisions of Chapter 1, of Title Eleven, of the Code, it shall be the duty of such applicant, or some one for him or her who may know the facts, to make and sign a written or printed statement under oath, which statement shall contain: First, the name, age and place of residence of the person desiring relief. Second, the length of time such person has continuously resided in the county, their occupation, condition of health, and whether single or married; if married, the names and ages of their children, if any. Third, such statement shall contain the name, place of residence and occupation of such of the relatives of the applicant as are by law required to maintain such poor persons, and the ability of such relatives to contribute relief, according to the knowledge or best information of the applicant. Fourth, and it shall also be stated whether the applicant has ever applied in person or by another, to his or her relatives for assistance, and if the same was given or refused; and in all cases the applicant shall state the particular relief desired, and that the same is an absolute necessity, and cannot otherwise be obtained except by county aid. And the board of supervisors shall furnish the necessary printed blanks for the statements herein required, and any person authorized by law may administer such oath, and for making out the written or filling up the printed statement aforesaid and attaching the jurat thereto, the county shall pay the sum of fifty cents. And persons furnished relief may from time to time be required to make additional affidavits and proofs as to the necessity of continuing relief; and any false oath or affirmation as to any of the requirements prescribed in this section shall be deemed perjury and punished as such.

SEC. 2. In the case of aged persons, or persons insane, disabled or sick, and whose condition is known to the legal authorities, assistance and relief may be extended without a sworn statement, or other proof being made. But, in all other cases, and whether relief has heretofore been given or not, such sworn statement shall be made before further aid shall be allowed. And such statement shall not make it obligatory upon the authorities to give

6 the aid demanded, but a discretion is to be exercised therein, as the facts of each case shall
7 be made to appear.

SEC. 3. And the authorities shall in all cases have the right to inquire into and investi-
2 gate the facts, and in doubtful cases an investigation shall be made and no relief shall be
3 given until it is made clearly to appear that the applicant is justly entitled thereto; the
4 object being to secure assistance and relief to those in actual need thereof, and to prevent
5 imposition and fraud on the part of the undeserving. And it is hereby made the duty of
6 those having control of the subject, to classify those entitled to relief into two classes:
7 First, those needing temporary aid. Second, those requiring permanent assistance. And in
8 all cases the second class in counties having a poor-house, and where it is possible to be
9 done, shall be sent to and maintained at such poor-house; except as to those exempted
10 therefrom in Section 1362 of the Code.

SEC. 4. The proper authorities shall preserve the sworn statements herein provided for,
2 and keep a record of the names of the persons relieved; also an itemized account of the
3 various articles furnished and the price of each article, from whom purchased, and the date
4 thereof. And a quarterly statement thereof shall be filed with the county auditor and no
5 allowance therefore shall be made by the board of supervisors; unless the provisions and re-
6 quirements of this act have been complied with.

SEC. 5. In townships in which the trustees have jurisdiction over the subject, they shall
2 appoint one of their number, or some suitable person, whose duty it shall be to look after
3 and attend to the wants and necessities of those in need of aid, when applied to for that
4 purpose, in such township; and shall take an oath to faithfully and honestly discharge his
5 trust as required by this act. And such trustee or appointee shall file with the township
6 clerk the sworn statements herein provided, which shall contain a full and complete account
7 of all supplies furnished or allowed as aforesaid. And for such service, the trustee or per-
8 son so acting shall be allowed one dollar for each day of six hours actually employed there-
9 in, and fifty cents for each fraction of a day less than six hours; however, when deemed
10 advisable, the board of supervisors may fix such compensation at the option of the board;
11 but, where a city of the first or second class is embraced within the limit of any township
12 as provided in Section 1361 of the Code, the overseer of the poor, or person having supervi-
13 sion thereof, may take such statement when called upon, and shall keep the record and all
14 accounts as aforesaid, and return the same to the auditor of the county quarterly; and must
15 qualify as required of trustees or other persons accepting said trust. And shall be allowed
16 for his services such compensation as the board of supervisors may consider just and rea-
17 sonable.

SEC. 6. In all cases the services performed by the trustees and overseers of the poor, or
2 such other persons as shall have charge thereof, shall be itemized, and shall contain the
3 date and character of the services rendered, and shall be sworn to and returned quarterly

4 to the County Auditor. And also the persons making the returns provided for in Section
5 four, shall be sworn to, the same as containing a full correct and honest exhibit of all the
6 items furnished and charged to the County. And the Board of Supervisors shall have
7 authority, and it is hereby made their duty, to carefully inspect such returns, and to investi-
8 gate and inquire into all matters connected therewith, and to prevent unjust or over-
9 charges, for supplies furnished, or for services rendered in this behalf. And it shall be the
10 duty of the Board of Supervisors to cause all persons having charge of the poor, to render
11 statements as aforesaid, and the failure of any such person or persons to make returns as
12 herein required, or as may at any time be ordered by the Board, shall be deemed guilty of
13 a misdemeanor and punished as such.

SEC. 7. And if any person or persons, separately, or by combining together, shall for the
2 purpose of unlawful gain, purchase supplies not actually needed, or charge the County a
3 sum greater than that actually paid, or contracted to be paid; or by the purchaser and
4 agreeing upon prices in excess of the real value, or market price with
5 intent of dividing the profits, or of obtaining of the County the excess over the real or
6 market price of such supplies, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and punished as provided
7 by law in such case.