

Prepared by the Citizen's Public Health Bill Commission.

A BILL FOR

AN ACT creating and establishing a department of public welfare in the government of cities of Minnesota of over 50,000 inhabitants, and not governed under a charter adopted pursuant to the provisions of Sec. 36, Art. 4, of the State Constitution and relating to the preservation of the public health and the administration of the charities and corrections of such cities, and defining the powers and duties of such department.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. There is hereby created and established an executive department in the municipal government of each city of this state now or hereafter having over fifty thousand inhabitants and not governed under a charter adopted pursuant to the provisions of Section 36, Article 4, of the state constitution, to be known and designated as the Department of Public Welfare. The powers and duties of such department shall be exercised and performed by an executive board to be known and designated as the Board of Public Welfare. Said board shall consist of the Mayor, President of the City Council and five members appointed by the Mayor whose appointment shall be confirmed by the City Council. The appointive members of said board shall hold office for the term of five years, except as herein otherwise provided. The appointive members of said board shall first be so appointed after the passage of this act for terms beginning July 1st, 1919, and expiring respectively one year, two years, three years, four years, and five years, after July 1st, 1919, and annually thereafter one member of such board shall be appointed for the term of five years commencing with July 1st, 1919, of the year in which such appointment is made. Any vacancy occurring for any cause in the office of any such member of the board shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of a member to fill such vacancy in the above prescribed manner. Each member of said board shall continue in office until his successor has been duly appointed and has qualified. Before entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office each member of the board shall make and file with the city clerk an oath that he will faithfully discharge the duties of his office. Said board shall organize and enter upon the discharge of its duties on July 1st, 1919, at which meeting it shall elect from its members a president of the board. All members of the board shall serve without compensation as such members.

Section 2. The board of public welfare hereby created shall have and exercise general supervision and administrative control of all activities and agencies carried on and maintained by the city for: (1) The promotion and preservation of health, and the prevention and suppression of disease in the city; (2) The care, conduct, management and operation of all hospitals, dispensaries, and clinics maintained by the city and the furnishing by the city of medical and dental service to the poor; (3) The relief of the poor, aged, and indigent, and the maintenance, management, control and operation of all public institutions now or hereafter established by the city for the relief of the poor, aged, and indigent, and (4) The maintenance, care, management, conduct and operation of all penal and correctional institutions established or to be established by the city. Provided nothing in this act shall be construed as limiting the present power of the Board of Education of any city to provide for the promotion of health of the public school children.

Section 3. Said Board of Public Welfare shall have authority to and may issue orders, adopt rules and regulations for the promotion and preservation of public health and the relief of the poor, aged and indigent in the city, and for the management of the institutions under its care and control, which rules and regulations shall be in accordance and shall not be inconsistent with the laws of the state or the ordinances of the city. The sole power and authority to pass ordinances relating to the promotion and preservation of health and the prevention and suppression of diseases in the city shall remain in the City Council of the city as provided by its charter or any law other than this act.

Section 4. Said Board shall hold its annual meeting on Tuesday after the first Monday of July and at such time shall elect a president from among its members who shall hold office for one year and until his successor is elected. The Board shall have power and authority to appoint a secretary of the board, a commissioner of health, a city physician, a superintendent of hospitals, a superintendent of relief, a superintendent of corrections, and such other heads of divisions of the public service under its control as the board may from time to time deem necessary. The city physician shall be the physician and surgeon to all departments of the city. Said board shall have power and authority to fix the term, salary and compensation of each of such officers and to prescribe their duties and to discharge and remove any of them from office. The commissioner of health, the city physician, and the superintendent of hospitals, shall not be included in the classified service of the city under the civil service act and shall not be subject to the provisions of such act.

Section 5. Said board shall have power and authority to determine the number of employees in each division under its control and to fix their salaries. The head of each division shall have power to appoint, subject to confirmation by the Board, all subordinate employees in his division, and prescribe their duties. All employees of the board other than the commissioner of health, the city physician, and superintendent of hospitals shall be included in the classified service of the city under said civil service act and their appointment, employment, suspension and discharge shall be made under and pursuant to the provisions of such act.

Section 6. All officers and employees of the department of health and the board of charities and corrections of the city at the time this act becomes effective shall be eligible to similar offices and positions under the Board of Public Welfare hereby created without being required to take civil service examinations as to their qualifications therefor, and they shall continue in their respective offices or positions from the time this act goes into effect, until further action of the Board.

Section 7. Upon the organization of the board hereby created there shall be transferred to the credit of the board in the city treasury all unexpended balances of the funds appropriated or set apart for the use during the year 1919 of the department of health and of the board of charities and corrections of the city together with all further revenues and funds that may or would accrue to said department of health and said board of charities and corrections if they were continued as departments of the city government.