

[ Act No. 2156, February 06, 1912 ]

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CONSOLIDATION OF MUNICIPALITIES INTO SANITARY DIVISION AND THE REORGANIZATION OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS OF HEALTH CREATED BY ACT NUMBERED THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHT; DEFINING THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR EACH PROVINCE A SPECIAL FUND TO BE KNOWN AS " HEALTH FUND" FOR THIS AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

*By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Legislature, that:*

SECTION 1. Provincial boards are hereby authorized, for the purposes of health administration, to divide their provinces into sanitary division, which may comprise one or more municipalities and these division shall become effective in a province whenever their organization has been agreed to by at least two-thirds of the municipal councils concerned: Provided, That to dissolve such sanitary division, the vote of two-thirds of the municipalities concerned shall be necessary. Any group of municipalities joined to constitute a sanitary division may have a divisional board of health organized in accordance with the provisions of Act Numbered Three hundred and eight, relative to the organization of municipal boards of health.

There shall be for each division a president who shall be appointed by the Director of Health from among the persons proposed by the municipal councils concerned and recommended by the provincial board. The powers, duties, and remuneration of such president shall be fixed in the manner hereinafter provided. The president of a sanitary division shall be a duly qualified physician and shall fulfill his duties under the immediate supervision of the district health officer: *Provided*, That in emergency conditions, of the existence of which the Director of Health shall judge, persons with qualifications satisfying the Director of Health may be appointed to act temporarily as presidents of municipal sanitary divisions.

SEC. 2. The president of a sanitary division shall reside in the municipality, the location of which, in the judgment of the district health officer, will afford the greatest facilities for the proper discharge of his duties.

SEC. 3. The powers and duties of the president of a sanitary division shall be as follows:

(a) He shall, subject to the direction of the district health officer and the divisional board of health, exercise general supervision over the hygienic and sanitary conditions of the division, including the public and private premises therein, and shall enforce all sanitary laws and regulations, and shall cause to be prosecuted all violators of sanitary laws and regulations and shall enforce all regulations made by the Director of Health.

He shall have the power and authority to abate any nuisance endangering the public health and to remove the cause of any special disease or mortality, and to enforce any quarantine regulations applying to a municipal district.

- (b) He shall provide himself with the necessary appliances and also the instruments for all emergency cases, medical, surgical, and obstetrical.
- (c) He shall draft and recommend to the municipal councils of his division the necessary ordinances for the enforcement of the provisions of paragraphs (k), (l), (m), (n), (p), (q) and (r), of section thirty-nine of the Municipal Code.
- (d) He shall inspect at least weekly, and as much oftener as may be necessary each of the municipalities in his division, and shall give free consultation to the indigent poor in each municipality for at least two hours weekly in the local municipal building or any other local available building found to be more suitable.
- (e) He shall, when requested, attend personally and gratuitously all cases of dystocic labor among the poor and, when necessary, shall request the assistance of the president of the nearest sanitary division.
- (f) He shall prepare and forward to the district health officer the quarterly report and other health reports of each municipality within his division.
- (g) He shall keep such records and statistics as may be required by the district health officer.
- (h) He shall carry out, and when so directed, he shall supervise the work of vaccination and disinfection in his division.
- (i) He shall visit any house or place where any person is suffering or is dead of a dangerous, communicable disease and shall carry out the prescribed and other measures necessary to prevent the spread of such disease. He shall, whenever practicable, furnish free medicines to indigent patients, and when requested he shall render, free of charge, medical services to all Government officers and employees, to all persons in custody, and to other persons entitled to such service.
- (j) In the case of accidents or serious injuries received by an indigent person whose condition is such as not to allow of removal to the municipal building, he shall when requested afford free treatment at the person's own house or elsewhere.
- (k) Whenever required by the Director of Health he shall cooperate with the presidents of other sanitary divisions in the suppression of any epidemic.
- (l) He shall when requested by the district health officer examine the bodies of persons who die without medical attendance in his division, and shall issue the necessary certificate of death.
- (m) He shall, once a year or more frequently if necessary, give in each of the barrios or other convenient areas of his sanitary division a public lecture in the local dialect, either directly or through an interpreter, on medical and sanitary subjects of local importance.