

[Act No. 1487, May 16, 1906]

AN ACT ABOLISHING PROVINCIAL BOARDS OF HEALTH, SUBSTITUTING THEREFOR DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICERS AND DEFINING THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES, AND REPEALING ACT NUMBERED THREE HUNDRED AND SEVEN, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL BOARDS OF HEALTH AND FIXING THEIR POWERS AND DUTIES."

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

SECTION 1. Act Numbered Three hundred and seven, entitled "An Act providing for the establishment of provincial boards of health and fixing their powers and duties," as amended, and all Acts and parts of Acts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, and the offices created by Act Numbered Three hundred and seven, as amended, are hereby abolished.

SEC. 2. Each province may have a district health officer appointed by the Governor-General, with the advice and consent of the Philippine Commission. Subject to the approval of the Philippine Commission, the Director of Health may increase the number of district health officers assigned to a province or may unite two or more provinces and assign to them a district health officer. He may also assign to each district such other duly authorized sanitary officers or employees as he may deem necessary.

Any regularly appointed person holding the office of president of a provincial board of health at the time of the passage of this Act shall be eligible for appointment without examination to the position of district health officer during a period of two years from the date on which this Act becomes effective.

SEC. 3. Salaries of district health officers and of all other officers and employees assigned to health districts by the Director of Health shall be paid monthly from funds set aside for the support of the Bureau of Health.

SEC. 4. Each province of a health district shall deposit in the: Insular Treasury, to the credit of the Bureau of Health, on or before the thirty-first days of January and July of each year, its proportion of the salary of the district health officer, or officers, and at the salaries of all other officers and employees assigned to the health district by the Director of Health, such proportion to be calculated by the Insular Auditor, who shall base the same upon the populations of the respective provinces of the district as determined by the latest census.

SEC. 5. Traveling expenses and per diems, authorized by law, of district; health officers and of all other officers and employees assigned to health districts by the Director of Health shall be paid out of funds appropriated for the Bureau of Health.

SEC. 6. Within their respective provinces, provincial fiscals shall act as legal advisers to district health officers.

SEC. 7. Within their respective districts district engineers shall act as sanitary engineers, and shall consult with district health officers regarding sanitary

Improvements therein. The powers conferred and the duties imposed upon district engineers and upon the Director of Public Works by sections five to twelve of Act Numbered Fourteen hundred and one, relative to the construction, maintenance, and repair of provincial public works and of municipal public works and to the preparation of plans and estimates and the letting of contracts therefor, are hereby conferred and imposed upon district engineers and the Director of Public Works with reference to all provincial or municipal Improvements of a sanitary nature, and the powers conferred upon provincial boards and municipal councils relative to requesting investigations, plans, and estimates for provincial or municipal public works are hereby conferred upon district health officers relative to sanitary works or Improvements.

District engineers shall give Information to district health officers as to the existence of insanitary conditions and of any failure to comply with legal sanitary orders and regulations.

SEC. 8. The provincial board of a province designated as the headquarters of a health district shall provide the necessary clerical assistance for the district health officer, and shall furnish suitable " office room and the necessary furniture, equipment, and supplies, Including stationery and blank forms, properly to conduct the office of the district health officer. The clerical assistance required by district health officers shall, if practicable, be rendered by provincial secretaries, and the offices of district health officers shall. If practicable, be kept in the offices of provincial secretaries.

SEC. 9. In the event of the absence of the district health officer from his district, or headquarters, or in the event of illness or other cause incapacitating him from the discharge of his duties, the Director of Health may, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the proper Department, designate any president of a municipal board of health to discharge the duties of district health officer temporarily, and the president of a municipal board of health so designated shall, during the time he is so engaged, receive a salary equal to that of the district health officer whom he substitutes, but shall receive no salary as president of the municipal board of health during such time, or the Director of Health may designate any district or Insular sanitary officer to perform such duties without additional compensation.

SEC. 10. The district health officer of each health district shall prepare for each province of his district an estimate showing the probable expense of conducting the work of his office in the said province for the period for which the regular estimates of other provincial expenses are made, and shall seasonably submit the same to the provincial boards, together with such additional information as may be required as a basis for approbation. The district health officer shall furnish certified copies of such estimates to the Director of Health.

SEC. 11. The district health officer; within his district, shall exercise general supervision and control over the health and sanitary ' work, and shall exercise general supervision and control over the municipal boards of health within his district. he shall have the power to institute all proceedings necessary to abate nuisances, and he may cause to be prosecuted all violations of sanitary laws and ordinances and the lawful regulations applicable to the district; and he shall have the power to remove the cause of any special disease or mortality; and to make and enforce, subject to the, approval of the Director of Health and of the Secretary of