

CHAPTER 13. No. 1.

POOR RELIEF.

Ordinances
Ch. 13. No. 1-
1940.
No. 38-1945.

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE RELIEF OF THE
POOR.

Commence-
ment.

[1st July, 1931.]

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Poor Relief Ordinance.

PRELIMINARY.

Interpre-
tation.

2. In this Ordinance—
“Board” means the Central Poor Relief Board established under section 4;
“Local Board” means a Local Poor Relief Board established under section 9.

Funds.

3. There shall be paid out of the general revenue of the Colony all such sums of money as may from time to time be appropriated for the purpose of granting poor relief under this Ordinance.

THE CENTRAL POOR RELIEF BOARD.

Central
Board:
establi-
shment of.

4. (1) For the purposes of this Ordinance, there shall be established a Board, to be called “The Central Poor Relief Board.”

Constitution
of.

Ord. 38-1945,
s. 3.

(2) The Board shall consist of a Chairman and not more than eight other members, to be nominated by the Governor, who shall hold office during his pleasure and for a period of not more than three years: Provided that at the expiration of his period of office any such person may be re-nominated to be a member of the Board, and

provided also that the Governor may remove any such person and nominate any other person in place of a member so removed, or in place of any member dying or resigning, or becoming incapable to act, or being absent from the Colony, or failing to attend the meetings of the Board for three consecutive months.

(3) The members present at any meeting may, in the absence of the Chairman, elect any member to act as Chairman of such meeting. Acting
Chairman.

(4) At any meeting of the Board any four members shall form a quorum, and the Chairman or acting Chairman, as the case may be, shall have a second or casting vote. Quorum.

(5) The Governor may appoint a secretary to the Board, who shall keep the minutes and accounts and conduct the correspondence of the Board, and who shall be the Chief Public Assistance Officer and perform the duties of that office and all such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Chairman. The secretary shall be paid such salary as may be provided by the Legislative Council, and shall hold office subject to such terms and conditions as to the Governor shall seem fit. Secretary.

(6) The Governor may appoint such other officers as may be necessary for the purposes of this Ordinance at such salaries as the Governor, with the consent of the Legislative Council, may from time to time direct. Other
officers.

5. (1) The Board shall be a body corporate, and may sue and be sued under the name of the Central Poor Relief Board, and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal. Board to be
a body cor-
porate and
to have a
common seal.

(2) All courts of law, Judges, Magistrates, Justices, and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the common seal of the Board when affixed to any document, and shall presume that it was duly affixed.

(3) The Board shall be reimbursed and paid out of the general revenue of the Colony all damages, costs, charges, and expenses which it may be put to or become chargeable with by reason of any action or suit, and no member of the Board shall be personally answerable or liable for the payment of the same or any part of the same.

Duties of
Central
Board.

6. It shall be the duty of the Board—

(a) to administer and control all public moneys appropriated for the relief of the poor;

(b) to control, direct and assist Local Boards in administering relief to the poor, and if at any time considered necessary by the Board, to take over and perform the duties of any one or more of such Local Boards;

(c) to co-operate with voluntary associations in administering relief to the poor;

(d) to advise generally on the management and administration of Houses of Refuge; and

(e) to control generally all matters relating to the relief of the poor.

Powers of
Central
Board.

To summon
and examine
persons on
matters
relating to
poor relief.

7. (1) The Board may summon before it such persons as it may think necessary for the purpose of being examined upon any matter relating to the relief of the poor, or any other matter placed by law under its control, and for the purpose of producing and verifying upon oath any books and documents in anywise relating to such matters; and may examine upon oath any person so summoned, or who voluntarily comes before it to be examined; or instead of administering an oath, the Board may require the person examined to make and subscribe a declaration of the truth of the matter respecting which he may have been or may be so examined. All such powers as aforesaid may be exercised by the secretary to the Board.

To appoint
sub-com-
mittees.

(2) The Board may appoint sub-committees for such purposes as it may deem fit.

To make
rules.

(3) The Board may, with the approval of the Governor in Council, make rules—

(a) for regulating its own proceedings, the keeping of accounts and registers, and the duties of its officers;

(b) for regulating the proceedings of Local Boards, the keeping of their accounts and registers and the duties of such Local Boards and their officers; and

(c) for the guidance of Local Boards and of any officers employed by them in the administration of relief to the poor.

(4) All rules made under this section shall be published in the *Royal Gazette*.

LOCAL POOR RELIEF BOARDS.

8. (1) For the purposes of this Ordinance, the Colony shall be divided into Local Poor Relief Districts.

Local Poor Relief Districts.

(2) Local Poor Relief Districts shall be such areas as may from time to time be fixed and defined by the Board by resolution to be approved by the Governor in Council and published in the *Royal Gazette*

9. (1) For each such Local Poor Relief District there shall be established a Local Board to be called "The Local Poor Relief Board."

Establishment of Local Boards.

(2) The Local Board shall consist of a Warden or an Assistant Warden to be appointed by the Governor, who shall be Chairman, and of not more than five other persons to be nominated by the Governor, who shall hold office during his pleasure and for a period of not more than three years: Provided that at the expiration of his period of office any such person may be re-nominated to be a member of the Local Board, and provided also that the Governor may remove any such person and nominate any other person in place of a member so removed, or in place of any member dying or resigning, or becoming incapable to act, or being absent from the Colony, or failing to attend the meetings of the Local Board for three consecutive months.

Constitution.

(3) At any meeting of a Local Board any three members shall form a quorum, and the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Quorum.

(4) The Chairman may appoint a secretary to the Local Board. The secretary shall keep the minutes and accounts and conduct the correspondence of the Local Board, and, in addition, shall perform all such duties as may be assigned to him by the Chairman.

Secretary.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, the members present at any meeting may, in the unavoidable absence of the Warden or Assistant Warden, elect any member to act as Chairman of such meeting.

Acting Chairman.

Duties of
Local
Boards.

10. It shall be the duty of every Local Board—

(a) to inquire into the circumstances of every recipient of and every applicant for poor relief;

(b) to inquire generally into the condition of the poor and the needs for poor relief within its district, and to report thereon to the Board;

(c) to administer relief to the poor in its district under the general direction and control of the Board;

(d) to regulate its proceedings, keep its accounts and registers and perform its duties in accordance with rules and instructions of the Board.

Powers of
Local Boards
relating to
summoning
and examin-
ing persons.

11. The powers conferred by subsection (1) of section 7 on the Board may be exercised by a Local Board and the secretary thereto.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

Penalty for
giving false
evidence.

12. Every person who, on any examination under the authority of this Ordinance, wilfully gives false evidence, or wilfully makes or subscribes a false declaration, shall be liable to a fine of ninety-six dollars.

Penalty for
refusing to
obey
summons.

13. Every person who refuses or wilfully neglects to attend in obedience to a summons issued under subsection (1) of section 7 or section 11, or to give evidence or to produce books and documents in accordance with such summons shall be liable to a fine of forty-eight dollars.

Recovery of
penalties.

14. All offences under this Ordinance may be prosecuted, and all penalties imposed under this Ordinance may be recovered, in the manner provided by the Summary Courts Ordinance; and proceedings initiated by the Board or by a Local Board may be conducted by any person authorised by the Board or the Local Board, either generally or for any particular proceedings.

Power of
entry.
Ord. 38-1945,
s. 4.

15. It shall be lawful for any member of the Board or of a Local Board and for the secretary of the Board or of a Local Board and for any other officer appointed under the authority of this Ordinance to enter any premises at any

time between eight o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening for the purpose of making inquiries in connection with the relief of the poor.

16. The Governor in Council may make regulations for carrying into effect the provisions and purposes of this Ordinance. Regulations.