



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

No. 18—1951

[L.S.]

I ASSENT,

H. E. RANCE,
Governor.

12th April, 1951.

AN ORDINANCE to make provision for the grant of Public Assistance

[26th April, 1951]

Commence-
ment

ENACTED by the Governor of Trinidad and Tobago with the Enactment advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Short title Public Assistance Ordinance, 1951.

PRELIMINARY

Interpretation

2. In this Ordinance—

“ Board ” means the Central Public Assistance Board established under section 4 of this Ordinance ;

“ Local Board ” means a Local Public Assistance Board established under section 8 of this Ordinance.

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 public assistance under this Ordinance.

THE CENTRAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BOARD

Central Board—
establishment of

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

(2) The Board shall consist of the Chief Public Assistance Officer who shall be 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.

(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.

(5) The Governor may appoint such 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.

Duties of
Central Board

5. It shall be the duty of the Board—

(a) to administer and control public moneys appropriated for the grant of public assistance ;

- (b) to control, direct and assist Local Boards in administering public assistance 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 public assistance ; and
- (d) to control generally all matters relating to the grant of public assistance.

6. (1) The Board may summon before it such persons as it may think necessary for the purposes of being examined upon any matter relating to the grant of public assistance 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.

Powers of
Central Board

To summon
and examine
persons on
matters relating
to public
assistance

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

To appoint
sub-committees

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

To 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 public assistance.

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

LOCAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BOARDS

7. (1) For the purposes of this Ordinance, the Colony shall be divided into Local Public Assistance Districts.

Local Public
Assistance
Districts

(2) Local Public Assistance 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*.

Establishment
of Local
Boards

8. (1) For each such Local Public Assistance District there shall be established a Local Board to be called "The Local Public Assistance Board."

Constitution

(2) A 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.

Quorum

(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.

Secretary

(4) The Chief Public Assistance Officer may appoint a secretary to any 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.

Acting
Chairman

(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.

Duties of
Local Boards

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

- (a) to inquire into the circumstances of every recipient of and every applicant for public assistance;
- (b) to inquire generally into the condition of the poor and the needs for public assistance within its district, and to report thereon to the Board;
- (c) to administer public assistance 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.

10. The powers conferred by subsection (1) of section 6 on the Board may be exercised by a Local Board and the secretary thereto.

Powers of Local Boards relating to summoning and examining persons

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

11. 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 giving false evidence

12. Every person who refuses or wilfully neglects to attend in obedience to a summons issued under subsection (1) of section 6 or section 10 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.

Penalty for refusing to obey summons

13. 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.

Recovery of penalties

Ch. 3. No. 4.

14. It shall be lawful for any member of the Board or of a Local Board and for any 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 grant of public assistance.

Power of entry

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

Regulations

16. The Poor Relief Ordinance is hereby repealed.

Repeal of Ch. 13. No. 1

Passed in Council this thirtieth day of March, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-one.

W. FUNG,
Clerk of the Council.