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LAW OF MICHIGAN

ESTABLISHING A

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH,

PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A

SUPERINTENDENT OF VITAL STATISTICS,

AND ASSIGNING CERTAIN DUTIES TO

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH.

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# ACT ESTABLISHING

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## STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

### ACT No. 81, LAWS OF 1873.

An act to establish a State Board of Health, to provide for the appointment of a Superintendent of Vital Statistics, and to assign certain duties to Local Boards of Health.

State Board of Health established.

Members of, and how appointed.

Term of office.

Vacancy; how filled.

Duties of.

Meeting of board.

Quorum.

Election of president, adoption of rules, etc.

SECTION 1. *The People of the State of Michigan enact, That* a board is hereby established which shall be known under the name and style of the "State Board of Health." It shall consist of seven members, as follows: Six members who shall be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, and a secretary, as provided in section four of this act. The six members first appointed shall be so designated by the Governor that the term of office of two shall expire every two years, on the last day of January. Thereafter, the Governor, with the consent of the Senate, shall biennially appoint two members to hold their offices for six years, ending January thirty-first. Any vacancy in said board may be filled, until the next regular session of the Legislature, by the Governor.

SEC. 2. The State Board of Health shall have the general supervision of the interests of the health and life of the citizens of this State. They shall especially study the vital statistics of this State, and endeavor to make intelligent and profitable use of the collected records of deaths and of sickness among the people; they shall make sanitary investigations and inquiries respecting the causes of disease, and especially of epidemics; the causes of mortality, and the effects of localities, employments, conditions, ingesta, habits, and circumstances on the health of the people. They shall, when required, or when they deem it best, advise officers of the government, or other State boards, in regard to the location, drainage, water supply, disposal of excreta, heating and ventilation of any public institution or building. They shall from time to time recommend standard works on the subject of hygiene for the use of the schools of the State.

SEC. 3. The board shall meet quarterly at Lansing, and at such other places and times as they may deem expedient. A majority shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. They shall choose one of their number to be their president, and may adopt rules and by-laws subject to the provisions of this act. They shall have authority to send their secretary, or a committee of the board, to any part of the State, when deemed necessary to investigate the cause of any special or unusual disease or mortality.

SEC. 4. At their first meeting, or as soon as a competent and suitable person can be secured, the board shall elect a secretary, who shall, by virtue of such election, become a member of the board, and its executive officer. The board may elect one of their own number secretary, in which case the Governor shall appoint another member to complete the full number of the board.

Election of secretary.

SEC. 5. The secretary shall hold his office so long as he shall faithfully discharge the duties thereof, but may be removed for just cause at a regular meeting of the board, a majority of the members voting therefor. He shall keep his office at Lansing, and shall perform the duties prescribed by this act, or required by the board. He shall keep a record of the transactions of the board; shall have the custody of all books, papers, documents, and other property belonging to the board, which may be deposited in his office; shall, so far as practicable, communicate with other State boards of health, and with the local boards of health within this State; shall keep and file all reports received from such boards, and all correspondence of the office appertaining to the business of the board. He shall, so far as possible, aid in obtaining contributions to the library and museum of the board. He shall prepare blank forms of returns, and such instructions as may be necessary, and forward them to the clerks of the several boards of health throughout the State. He shall collect information concerning vital statistics, knowledge respecting diseases, and all useful information on the subject of hygiene, and through an annual report, and otherwise, as the board may direct, shall disseminate such information among the people.

Term of office of secretary, and his duties.

SEC. 6. The secretary shall receive an annual salary which shall be fixed by the State Board of Health. The board shall quarterly certify the amount due him, and on presentation of said certificate the Auditor General shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer for the amount. The members of the board shall receive no per diem compensation for their services, but their traveling and other necessary expenses while employed on the business of the board shall be allowed and paid.

Salary of secretary.

Expenses of board.

SEC. 7. The sum of four thousand dollars per annum, or so much thereof as may be deemed necessary by the State Board of Health, is hereby appropriated to pay the salary of the secretary, meet the contingent expenses of the office of the secretary, and the expenses of the board, which shall not exceed the sum hereby appropriated. Said expenses shall be certified and paid in the same manner as the salary of the secretary.

Appropriation.

SEC. 8. It shall be the duty of the health physician, and also of the clerk of the local board of health in each township, city, and village in this State, at least once in each year, to report to the State Board of Health their proceedings, and such other facts required, on blanks and in accordance with instructions received from said State Board. They shall also make special reports whenever required to do so by the State Board of Health.

Health physicians and clerks of local boards of health to report to State Board.

SEC. 9. In order to afford to this board better advantages for obtaining knowledge important to be incorporated with that collected

Duty of State officers, phys-

clans, etc., to furnish information.

through special investigations and from other sources, it shall be the duty of all officers of the State, the physicians of all mining or other incorporated companies, and the president or agent of any company chartered, organized, or transacting business under the laws of this State, so far as is practicable, to furnish to the State Board of Health any information bearing upon public health which may be requested by said board for the purpose of enabling it better to perform its duties of collecting and distributing useful knowledge on this subject.

Secretary to be Superintendent of Vital Statistics.

SEC. 10. The secretary of the State Board of Health shall be the Superintendent of Vital Statistics. Under the general direction of the Secretary of State, he shall collect these statistics, and prepare and publish the report required by law relating to births, marriages, and deaths.

Room for use of board.

SEC. 11. The Secretary of State shall provide a suitable room for the meetings of the board at Lansing, and office-room for its secretary.

Approved April 12, 1873.