

shall be located on, or adjacent to, highway rights-of-way and small boat waterways, and the Land Commissioner shall have power to acquire the sites so jointly selected by grant, gift, purchase, lease, dedication or prescription and hold the same in the name of the Territory.

Section 2. Historic scenic sites, recreation beaches and roadside rests; facilities thereon. The Highway Engineer is hereby authorized to construct and maintain such facilities at scenic sites, recreation

beaches or roadside rests as he may determine to be necessary and desirable. Such facilities may include but are not limited to, access roads, camp facilities (including picnic tables, fireplaces, and toilets), camping areas or other facilities deemed necessary and desirable for the convenience and benefit of travelers and small boat operators.

Section 3. Funds to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be provided in the general appropriation act of the Legislature.

Approved March 29, 1955

CHAPTER 175

AN ACT

To authorize the Alaska Board of Health to contract with hospitals within Alaska and with such qualified specialists as are needed, for interim care of the mentally ill, and authorizing appropriation.

(H. B. 78)

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Section 1. Definition. As used in this Act—

(a) The term "hospital" means a public, private, or federal hospital or institution or part thereof, equipped and otherwise qualified to provide short-term in-patient care and treatment for the mentally

ill.

(b) The term "qualified specialist" means an individual with special training in psychiatry, psychology, and allied specialties.

(c) The term "mentally ill individual" means an individual having a psychiatric or other disease which substantially impairs his mental health or an individual who is men-

tally defective or mentally retarded.

Section 2. Intent of Act. The intent of this Act is to provide mentally ill individuals with medical care and hospitalization within Alaska for the purpose of observation, diagnosis, and interim and short-term care. It is also intended to establish a revolving fund to be used for the payment of such care and hospitalization as authorized in this Act. It is intended that the payment of expenses for the care or treatment of a mentally ill individual shall be made to the revolving fund by the patient, or his legal representative, spouse, parents or adult children. Such payment shall be made in such manner and proportion as the Commissioner of Health, or his authorized representative, may find to be within their ability to pay.

Section 3. Contractual Authorization. The Board of Health, acting through the Commissioner of Health, is hereby authorized to enter into contracts with hospitals in Alaska and with such qualified specialists as are needed, for interim and short-term care of the mentally ill.

Section 4. Establishment of Revolving Fund. The funds appropriated under this Act shall serve

as a revolving fund to be used by the Board of Health to support contract commitments.

Section 5. Repayment to Revolving Fund. It shall be the duty of a patient, or his legal representative, spouse, parents, adult children, in that sequence, to pay or contribute to the payment of the charges for the care or treatment of such patient in such manner and proportion as the Commissioner of Health, or his authorized representative may find to be within their ability to pay; provided, that such charges shall in no case exceed the actual cost of such care and treatment. Provided, however, that if any of the above named persons willfully conceal their ability to pay, the Commissioner of Health shall request an action to be filed by the Attorney General to compel payment, to the extent of their ability, charges accruing during the period of such concealment. The Commissioner of Health may cause to be made such investigations as may be necessary to determine such ability to pay, including the requirement of sworn statements of income by such persons.

Section 6. Funds to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be provided in the general appropriation act of the Legislature.

Approved March 29, 1955