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Outline
of the
Recommendations
to the
1923 Session of the Legislature



West Virginia
State Child Welfare
Commission

PERSONNEL

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| 1922 | |

Outline of Recommendations for Legislation made by the State Child Welfare Commission to the 1923 Session of the West Virginia Legislature

NEW LEGISLATION

1. Consolidation of County Poor Farms.

Using the six congressional districts. One farm for each district. The district homes to be managed by a Board of Managers which consist of the president of the county courts of the counties constituting a congressional district with the State Board of Control. The Board of Managers to visit poor farms and select the one to be used. The remaining farms to be sold and the funds returned to the respective counties. The farm selected to be paid for pro rata by the counties in the district in proportion to the assessed valuation of the property in each county. The current expenses to be paid on a per capita basis by the counties participating in the use of the home.

2. County Welfare Boards.

County Welfare Boards to be created at the option of the counties. The Board to consist of three members two citizens of the county appointed by the court having juvenile jurisdiction, the president of the county court ex-officio member. This Board to employ a County Welfare Agent. Agent to take over the work of the State Board of Children's Guardians in the county under the supervision of the State Board; to take care of the children who are at the present time in our county poor farms to make investigation for Mother's Pensions and poor relief; where there are no Probation Officers, at the request of the county court to act in that capacity; to cooperate with Child Labor Inspectors, Health and Truancy Officers. In Counties where no Board is appointed, the county court with the approval of the State Board of Children's Guardians can appoint such an agent.

AMENDMENTS

1. State Board of Children's Guardians.

(a) Acts 1921. Chapter 134, Sec. 9. When necessary such Board may place such children as need special care or attention or supervision in private boarding homes temporarily.

(b) Sec. 10. Shall make family case work investigation of those who are mentally defective.

(c) That no dependent, neglected or defective child shall be placed in the county or district infirmary for other than temporary care and then only when a written notice is made to the State Board of Children's Guardians of this placement.

2. Mothers' Assistance.

(a) Increasing the age of the child to correspond to child labor and educational laws.

(b) Increase the maximum allowance to correspond with standards of the majority of states and the workingmen's compensation allowance.

(c) The clause which provides a woman can own no property except household goods, be omitted.

(d) Making the period of settlement for a mother to be two years in the state and one year in the county before she may apply for aid.

(e) That during the month preceding the end of each fiscal years the county court shall reconsider all cases which are then receiving mothers pensions and shall enter orders fixing compensation during the fiscal year.

(f) Upon hearing in court of an application for aid the court finding the facts alleged in the application to be true then shall make an order to help the mother of the children in whose benefit the application is filed.

3. Poor Relief or County Aid.

(a) That during the month preceding the end of each fiscal year the county court shall then reconsider all cases that are then receiving county aid.

4. Marriage.

To make venereal disease a bar to marriage, and to require ten days to elapse between the issuance of the marriage license by the county clerk and the performance of the ceremony.

ENDORSEMENTS OF LEGISLATION TO BE PROPOSED BY STATE DEPARTMENTS

1. Mental Defectives. Appropriation for building a State Training School for mental defectives which was created by the last session of the legislature but for which no appropriation was made.
2. Midwifery. The Board of Health to make a survey of the conditions surrounding midwifery to report to the next session of the legislature.
3. State Board of Health to develop full time health units in each county.
4. The Board of Health to require physical examination of all children entering any state institution except hospitals.
5. The approval of the Sheppard-Towner Act for the promotion of maternal and child hygiene work under the Board of Health.
6. Recommendation to be made by the Department of Labor concerning the protection of children in industry.

GENERAL ENDORSEMENTS

1. That the county ultimately be made the unit of taxation for schools.
2. That a survey be made of the Industrial Schools by the State Board of Control.

CHILDREN'S CODE

All the laws affecting minors to be brought together into a legal code under one chapter head to be incorporated into the new code of West Virginia with such amendments as will eliminate duplication or overlapping.