

POOR CHILDREN, CARE BY COUNTIES
Act of May 20, 1921, P.L. 1030, No. 370
AN ACT

CL. 23

To provide for the care, training, and maintenance of certain children by the several counties; authorizing the county commissioners to establish and maintain separate or joint county industrial homes for such purposes; requiring poor authorities to place children of certain ages with families or in institutions; providing for the care and maintenance of certain children in such homes at the expense of the parents; and prohibiting the receiving and detaining of children in almshouses and poorhouses; and validating similar acts heretofore performed by the commissioners of the several counties.

Section 1. It shall be lawful for the county commissioners of any county, or for the county commissioners of two or more counties acting together, to establish and maintain an industrial home for the care and training of children. Such institution or home shall be remote from any almshouse or poorhouse and entirely disconnected from the same, and shall be under the management of the county commissioners.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for the overseers or guardians or directors of the poor, in the several counties, cities, boroughs, and townships of this Commonwealth, to receive into, or retain in, any almshouse or poorhouse, any child between two and sixteen years of age, for a longer period than sixty days, unless such child shall be an unteachable idiot, an epileptic, or a paralytic, or otherwise so disabled or deformed as to render it incapable of labor or service.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of said overseers, guardians, directors of the poor, or other persons having charge of the poor, to place all dependent children who are in or committed to their charge, and who are over two years of age (with the exceptions named in the second section of this act), in some respectable family in this State or in some educational institution or home for children; and one of said officers shall visit such children, in person or by agent, not less than once every six months, and make all needful inquiries as to their treatment and welfare, and shall report thereon to the board of overseers or other officers charged with the care of such children.

Whenever the parents of any children between the ages of two and sixteen years are unable to give them proper personal care and attention, but are willing and able to pay for such cares, attention, and maintenance, the county commissioners of the respective counties may enter into an agreement with the parent or parents of such child or children for their care and maintenance in such county industrial home at the expense of such parent or parents.

Section 4. All acts and contracts heretofore performed and executed, by or on behalf of any county by its county

commissioners, by virtue or authority of the act, entitled "An act to prohibit the receiving and detaining of children in almshouses and poorhouses, and to provide for the care and education of such children," approved the thirteenth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-three (Pamphlet Laws, one hundred and eleven), are hereby declared to be as valid and effectual in law as if performed and executed under and by virtue of this act after the date of its passage.