

UNEDITED

The Saskatchewan Health Insurance Act

being

Chapter 233 of *The Revised Statutes of Saskatchewan, 1953*
(effective February 1, 1954).

FOR HISTORICAL REFERENCE ONLY

NOTE:

This consolidation is not official. Amendments have been incorporated for convenience of reference and the original statutes and regulations should be consulted for all purposes of interpretation and application of the law. In order to preserve the integrity of the original statutes and regulations, errors that may have appeared are reproduced in this consolidation.

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CHAPTER 233

An Act respecting Health Insurance

SHORT TITLE.

Short title

1 This Act may be cited as *The Saskatchewan Health Insurance Act*.

R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.1.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation

2 In this Act:

“adult”

1 “**adult**” means any person who has attained his sixteenth birthday;

“commission”

2 “**commission**” means the Health Insurance Commission mentioned in section 4;

“juvenile”

3 “**juvenile**” means any person who has not attained his sixteenth birthday;

“minister”

4 “**minister**” means the Minister of Public Health;

“prescribed”

5 “**prescribed**” means prescribed by the commission;

“qualified person”

6 “**qualified person**” means a person qualified under section 3 to receive the benefits of health insurance conferred by this Act.

1944, c.76, s.2; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.2.

PERSONS TO WHOM ACT APPLIES.

Qualifications

3 Every person whose normal place of residence is in Saskatchewan, and by whom or on whose behalf the requirements of this Act and the regulations have been complied with, shall be qualified to receive the benefits of health insurance conferred by this Act.

1944, c.76, s.3; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.3.

ADMINISTRATION OF ACT.

Health Insurance Commission

4(1) There shall be a commission to administer this *Commission Act*, to be called the Health Insurance Commission, which shall consist of such number of members as may be determined and appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. One of the members shall be appointed as chairman of the commission.

(2) The Deputy Minister of Public Health shall *ex officio* be a member of the commission.

(3) The chairman shall hold office for such period not exceeding ten years as may be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Each of the other members shall hold office for a period of two, four or six years, as may be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, their terms of office being so arranged that, as nearly as may be, an equal number of them shall complete their terms of office at the end of each of the said periods, and thereafter all appointments, other than to the office of chairman, shall be for a term of six years.

(4) A member, upon expiration of his term of office, shall be eligible for reappointment.

(5) The commission shall be a body corporate.

1944, c.76, s.4; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.4.

Powers and duties of chairman

5(1) The chairman shall be the chief executive officer of the commission and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and the regulations and the directions of the commission, have supervision over, and direction of, the work of the commission and of the persons appointed pursuant to section 8.

(2) The chairman shall devote his whole time to the work of the commission.

(3) The commission may appoint an acting chairman with power to act in the absence of the chairman or if he is unable to act by reason of illness or for any other cause, and the acting chairman may exercise the powers and shall perform the duties of the chairman.

1944, c.76, s.5; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.5.

Remuneration of members

6(1) The salary of the chairman shall be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

(2) The other members shall not receive salary but shall receive such remuneration and travelling expenses in connection with the work of the commission as may be determined by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

1944, c.76, s.6; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.6.

Rules of procedure

7 The commission may make rules respecting:

- (a) the procedure to be followed in calling meetings, and at meetings, of the commission;
- (b) the number of commissioners who shall form a quorum at any meeting;
- (c) the conduct of the business of the commission.

1944, c.76, s.7; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.7.

Staff

8 The Public Service Commission may appoint officers, inspectors, clerks and other employees necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the commission.

1944, c.76, s.8; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.8.

REGISTRATION

Returns by adults

9(1) The commission may require every adult to file with the commission or with any person designated by it, on or before a date to be fixed by the commission, a return in the prescribed form containing the prescribed information.

(2) Every person who files a return shall answer promptly any inquiry of the commission concerning any entry in or omission from the return, and the commission may make such other inquiry as appears necessary in order to ascertain the correctness of any return and of any information obtained as a result of such inquiry.

(3) The commission shall not be bound by any entry in a return nor by information obtained as a result of any inquiry.

1944, c.76, s.9; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.9.

BENEFITS

Benefits

10(1) The benefits to be conferred by this Act shall be such as to provide for the prevention of disease and for the application of all necessary diagnostic and curative procedures and treatment.

(2) The benefits to be conferred by this Act shall be administered under the following heads, namely:

- (a) medical, surgical and obstetrical benefits;
- (b) dental benefits;
- (c) pharmaceutical benefit;
- (d) hospital benefit;
- (e) nursing benefit.

(3) The benefits referred to in subsection (2) shall include such special and technical procedures and ancillary services as may be prescribed and as may, in accordance with the regulations, be deemed necessary in order to make effective the said benefits in the case of any qualified person.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, if, on account of insufficient professional personnel, facilities or equipment, it is found to be impracticable, in an emergency or in any other circumstances, to provide any of the said benefits for all persons entitled thereto the said benefits shall, as far as may be practicable and in accordance with the regulations, be made available to such of the said persons as may at the time be most urgently in need thereof.

(5) Where complete benefits cannot be made available to all persons in any area or region on account of insufficient personnel, facilities or equipment, the commission may by regulation make such financial adjustments as it deems fit.

1944, c.76, s.10; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.10.

DUTIES OF COMMISSION

Duties**11** The commission shall:

- (a) investigate, examine and consider the conditions throughout the province with relation to the benefits to be provided under the provisions of this Act;
- (b) make such inquiries as it deems necessary with a view to the establishment of Public Health Regions and Health Insurance Regions in accordance with section 12;
- (c) make tentative arrangements with hospital boards and professional bodies for the purposes of this Act;
- (d) report to the minister in what manner health insurance benefits can best be supplied to the people of the province, the estimated cost thereof, the most advantageous method of paying for the services to be rendered to qualified persons and of providing for the cost thereof.

1944, c.76, s.11; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.11.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS

Establishment of regions

12(1) For the economic and effective administration of public health services and of health insurance, the province shall be divided into areas to be known, for public health purposes, as "Public Health Regions" and, for health insurance purposes, as "Health Insurance Regions".

(2) Within each region there shall be established a unified administration of all public health services under the Department of Public Health, and of health insurance under the commission, with such provision for co-operation between the department and the commission in each region as is deemed advisable in the interests of public health, and in accordance with the provisions of *The Public Health Act*.

(3) Before the establishment of a region, consideration shall be given to:

- (a) the boundaries of municipalities, local improvement districts and school districts;
- (b) the provision already made for public health services by local authorities;
- (c) the sufficiency of the population within any proposed region for the economic development of adequate public health services;
- (d) the natural sources of water supply and the drainage needs, both immediate and prospective;
- (e) the lines of communication to and within each proposed region;
- (f) the hospital facilities and the location thereof within each proposed region and adjoining regions;
- (g) the relation of each proposed region with adjoining regions and the regions as a whole; and

- (h) all other factors deemed to have a bearing on the determination of suitable regions.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this section the boundaries of the regions shall be established by the Minister of Municipal Affairs, or by such other person as may be designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for the purpose, in consultation with the Minister of Public Health and the commission.
- (5) The persons referred to in subsection (4), in consultation with the commission, shall prepare a scheme for the apportionment among the municipalities or local improvement districts, or municipalities and local improvement districts, within a region of that part of the costs of the public health services not otherwise provided for, and for the utilization for public health purposes within the region of the public health facilities and personnel of the municipal councils within the region.
- (6) The scheme for the apportionment of costs within a region may be re-examined and a new scheme prepared by the said persons, in consultation with the commission, at the instance of the Minister of Public Health, or at the end of each five-year period at the instance of any municipality within the region or at the instance of the Minister of Municipal Affairs acting on behalf of any local improvement district within the region.

1944, c.76, s.12; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.12.

Regional offices

- 13(1)** The commission may establish an office, to be called the regional office, within each Health Insurance Region and may divide any region into such number of divisions, each with a divisional office, as the commission deems necessary.
- (2) The divisional officers shall be under the general control, supervision and direction of the regional office.
- (3) The organization, duties and responsibilities of each divisional office shall be prescribed by the commission.

1944, c.76, s.13; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.13:

Regional offices

- 14(1)** In addition to the regional officers and staff, there may be in each region an officer of the commission to be known as the regional medical officer and such number of assistant regional medical officers as the commission deems necessary for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) Regional medical officers and assistant regional medical officers may be employed on a full time or part time basis as the circumstances in each region may require.
- (3) The regional medical officer shall:
- (a) advise practitioners in the discharge of their duties under this Act;
 - (b) keep in touch with practitioners with the object of raising the standards of service under this Act;
 - (c) examine and satisfy himself of the accuracy and efficiency of the clinical and other records of practitioners;
 - (d) investigate any case of alleged excessive prescribing of drugs, medicines or appliances by any practitioner; and

(e) perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the commission.

1944, c.76, s.14; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.14.

GENERAL

Reference of matters to commission for investigation

15 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may refer any matter respecting health insurance to the commission for investigation and report to the minister.

1944, c.76, s.15; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.15.

Power of commission to demand information

16 The commission may require any person to make written returns of information deemed by the commission to be necessary for the purposes of this Act, and any person who fails to comply with such request is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50 and in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty days, or to both fine and imprisonment.

1944, c.76, s.16; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.16.

Powers of inquiry

17 For the purpose of any investigation held pursuant to the provisions of this Act, the commission shall have all the powers conferred or which may be conferred upon commissioners under *The Public Inquiries Act*.

1944, c.76, s.17; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.17.

Expenses

18 The expenses of administration of this Act shall be paid out of moneys appropriated by the Legislature for the purpose.

1944, c.76, s.18; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.18.

Agreements with Government of Canada

19 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may enter into any agreement with the Government of Canada respecting health insurance which that Government is authorized to make under any statute of Canada, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon.

1944, c.76, s.19; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.19.

Regulations

20 The commission may, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, make such regulations as it deems necessary for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act according to their true intent.

1944, c.76, s.20; R.S.S. 1953, c.233, s.20.