

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1783

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLEBRACHT.

4129H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 205, RSMo, by adding thereto nineteen new sections relating to the care of indigent persons.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 205, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto nineteen new sections, to  
2 be known as sections 205.581, 205.591, 205.601, 205.611, 205.621, 205.631, 205.641, 205.651,  
3 205.661, 205.671, 205.681, 205.691, 205.701, 205.711, 205.721, 205.731, 205.741, 205.751, and  
4 205.761, to read as follows:

**205.581. Poor persons shall be relieved, maintained, and supported by the county  
2 of which they are inhabitants.**

**205.591. Aged, infirm, lame, blind, or sick persons, who are unable to support  
2 themselves, and when there are not other persons required by law and able to maintain  
3 them, shall be deemed poor persons.**

**205.601. No person shall be deemed an inhabitant within the meaning of sections  
2 205.581 to 205.761, who has not resided in the county for the space of twelve months next  
3 preceding the time of any order being made respecting such poor person, or who shall have  
4 removed from another county for the purpose of imposing the burden of keeping such poor  
5 person on the county where he or she last resided for the time aforesaid.**

**205.611. The county commission of each county, on the knowledge of the judges of  
2 such tribunal, or any of them, or on the information of any associate circuit judge of the  
3 county in which any person entitled to the benefit of the provisions of sections 205.581 to  
4 205.761 resides, shall from time to time, and as often and for as long a time as may be**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

5 necessary, provide, at the expense of the county, for the relief, maintenance, and support  
6 of such persons.

205.621. The county commission shall at all times use its discretion and grant relief  
2 to all persons, without regard to residence, who may require its assistance.

205.631. The county commission of the proper county shall allow such sum as it  
2 shall think reasonable for the funeral expenses of any person who shall die within the  
3 county without means to pay such funeral expenses.

205.641. The several county commissions shall have the power, whenever they may  
2 think it expedient, to purchase or lease, or may purchase or lease, any quantity of land in  
3 their respective counties, not exceeding three hundred twenty acres, and receive a  
4 conveyance to their county for the same.

205.651. Such county commission may cause to be erected on the land so purchased  
2 or leased a convenient poorhouse or houses, and cause other necessary labor to be done,  
3 and repairs and improvements made, and may appropriate from the revenues of their  
4 respective counties such sums as will be sufficient to pay the purchase moneys in one or  
5 more payments to improve the same, and to defray the necessary expenses.

205.661. The county commission shall have the power to make all necessary and  
2 proper orders and rules for the support and government of the poor kept at such  
3 poorhouse and for supplying them with the necessary raw materials to be converted by  
4 their labor into articles of use and for the disposing of the products of such labor and  
5 applying the proceeds thereof to the support of the institution.

205.671. The several county commissions shall set apart from the revenues of the  
2 counties such sums for the annual support of the poor as shall seem reasonable, which  
3 sums the county treasurers shall keep separate from other funds, and pay the same out on  
4 the warrants of their county commissions.

205.681. Any county which now has or may hereafter have within such county a  
2 city having a special charter and which city now has or may hereafter have a population  
3 of no less than ten thousand inhabitants and no more than thirty thousand inhabitants  
4 shall, out of the funds of such county, provide for the care of the poor in said county,  
5 including poor of such city or cities, and no such city shall hereafter be exempt from any  
6 tax for the support of the poor of such county. No money shall hereafter be refunded to  
7 such city by any such county on account of any money expended by said county for the  
8 support of the poor of said county.

205.691. Whenever such poorhouse or houses are erected, the county commission  
2 shall have power to appoint a fit and discreet person to superintend the same and the poor

3 who may be kept thereat and to allow such superintendent a reasonable compensation for  
4 his or her services.

205.701. Such superintendent shall have the power to cause persons kept at such  
2 poorhouse, who are able to do useful labor, to perform the same by reasonable and  
3 humane coercion.

205.711. The county commission may at any time, for good cause, remove the  
2 superintendent and appoint another to fill the vacancy.

205.721. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of the poor, or poor farm, as  
2 provided for in sections 205.581 to 205.761, to keep a book furnished by the county  
3 commission, and enter therein a book account of all business transactions had or done or  
4 caused to be done by the superintendent. Said book shall show an itemized account of all  
5 farm products, stock, and other articles sold by the superintendent or by the  
6 superintendent's authority, and of all articles purchased for the use of the poor, or for the  
7 use or improvement of the poor farm or the buildings thereon, and of all expenses for farm  
8 labor and other work or services done by order or contract of the superintendent and of  
9 such other items as may be ordered kept therein by the county commission.

205.731. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to appear before the county  
2 commission on the first day of every regular session thereof, and at such other times as the  
3 commission may require, and present said book to said commission for their inspection.  
4 If the superintendent fails or refuses to keep such book and present the same to the county  
5 commission, as provided in sections 205.581 to 205.761, it shall be considered sufficient  
6 cause for his or her removal, and it shall be the duty of the county commission to remove  
7 the same and appoint another to fill the vacancy.

205.741. All moneys that shall come into the hands of the superintendent from the  
2 sale of farm products, stock, or other articles belonging to the county, and all other moneys  
3 belonging to the county that shall come into the superintendent's hands from other sources,  
4 except by warrants drawn in his or her favor by the county commission, shall be paid into  
5 the county treasury and placed with the fund for the support of the poor, and a receipt  
6 taken for the same.

205.751. Every superintendent, before entering upon his duties, shall enter into a  
2 bond to the state of Missouri in a sum no less than five hundred nor more than three  
3 thousand dollars, to be determined by the county commission, conditioned that he or she  
4 shall faithfully account for all money belonging to the county that shall come into his  
5 hands, and that he or she shall exercise due diligence and care over property belonging to  
6 the county, under his or her control. Said bond shall be approved by the county  
7 commission and filed with the clerk thereof.

**205.761. Sections 205.721 to 205.761 shall not apply to any county where the support and keeping of the poor is let out by contract, nor to any county where the superintendent rents or leases the poor farm and stocks the same and furnishes the necessary farm implements used thereon at the superintendent's own expense and carries on said farm at the superintendent's own expense.**

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