



**NEW JERSEY  
COMMISSION ON STATE  
ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION**

**REPORT**

**PART 5**

**HEALTH**

**SUBMITTED TO**

**GOVERNOR WALTER E. EDGE**

**APRIL 1945**



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COMMISSION ON STATE  
ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION,

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*Report*

April 3, 1945

Hon. Walter E. Edge  
Governor  
State of New Jersey  
State House  
Trenton, N. J.

Dear Governor Edge:

The Commission on State Administrative Reorganization herewith submits Part V of its Report.

The proposed bill will reorganize and strengthen the public health services of the State by clarifying the responsibility for administering the various programs which so vitally affect the health of all our citizens.

Briefly stated, the objective of this proposal is to establish a State Department of Health with a well trained and well qualified administrator who will have the sole responsibility and authority in the administration of the public health programs of the State but who will be assisted in the formulation of policies by a Public Health Council of seven outstanding citizens.

The Commission recommends that this bill be introduced in the Legislature immediately so that the people of New Jersey may study its proposals and have ample opportunity to make their wishes known before the next session of the Legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES R. ERDMAN, JR., Chairman

C. WESLEY ARMSTRONG, JR.

ALFRED E. DRISCOLL

CHARLES A. EATON, JR.

WALTER JONES

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## SUMMARY OF BILL

The proposed bill will:

I. Consolidate the following State agencies:

1. State Department of Health
2. State Board of Health
3. State Director of Health
4. Perth Amboy Port Health Officer and Deputy  
Perth Amboy Port Health Officer

II. Create a Department of Health headed by a commissioner appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The commissioner will serve for a term of five years and will receive a salary of \$15,000. per annum. There will be within the department a Public Health Council consisting of seven non-salaried members, each of whom will be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for a term of seven years. There will also be within the department such divisions as the commissioner may, subject to the approval by the Public Health Council, from time to time establish.

The commissioner will be primarily charged with the responsibility for administering the health programs of the State. He will, subject to the provisions of the Civil Service laws, appoint the directors of the divisions and all other personnel within the department.

It will be the duty of the Public Health Council to advise the commissioner on matters relating to the preservation and improvement of public health. It will also have the power to:

1. Enact a State Sanitary Code;
2. Study and investigate public health activities in the State;
3. Prescribe the qualifications of health officers, sanitary inspectors and plumbing inspectors; and
4. Approve or disapprove the following:
  - a. The organization of the department as prescribed by the commissioner;
  - b. The compensation of the directors of the divisions and other personnel of the department as fixed by the commissioner;
  - c. The commissioner's abolition of any office or position in the department;
  - d. The acceptance and administration by the commissioner of any gift to the State for public health purposes; and
  - e. The acceptance by the commissioner of the services of local or Federal officials or agencies.

SUMMARY OF BILL (Cont'd)

The acceptance by the commissioner of Federal grants for public health purposes will be subject to approval by the Governor and the Public Health Council.

- III. Provide for the co-ordination of the public health activities of the State in the following fields:
  - 1. Maternal and child health services;
  - 2. Dental health;
  - 3. Public health nursing;
  - 4. Industrial hygiene;
  - 5. Sanitary engineering facilities; and
  - 6. Laboratory analyses.
- IV. Authorize the establishment of state health districts to facilitate the integration and co-ordination of local health activities.
- V. Provide that the directors of the divisions and all other employees of the department shall be in the classified service of the Civil Service of the State.

AN ACT relating to public health; providing for the establishment in the Executive Branch of the State Government of a State Department of Health, defining its organization, functions, powers and duties, providing thereby for the consolidation and co-ordination of public health activities; abolishing the offices of Perth Amboy port health officer and deputy Perth Amboy port health officer; transferring to, and vesting in said State Department of Health the functions, powers and duties of the Perth Amboy port health officer and of the deputy Perth Amboy port health officer; amending section 26:1-1, repealing sections 26:2-1 to 26:2-55 inclusive, 26:4-111, 26:4-114, 26:4-115 and supplementing Title twenty-six, of the Revised Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

## ARTICLE I

### Definitions

1. As used in this act, unless otherwise specifically indicated, "State Department," "Department of Health" and "department" mean the State Department of Health;

"Commissioner" means the State Commissioner of Health who is the head of the State Department of Health;

"Council" means the Public Health Council in the State Department of Health;

"Division director" means the director of one of the divisions in the State Department of Health;

"Local board" or "local board of health" means the board of health of any municipality or the boards, bodies or officers in such municipality lawfully exercising any of the powers of a local board of health under the laws governing such municipality.

## ARTICLE II

2. There is hereby established, in the Executive Branch of the State Government, a State Department of Health.

3. The head of the department shall be the State Commissioner of Health, who shall be a duly licensed physician, a graduate of a regularly chartered and legally constituted medical school, with at least five years' experience in the actual performance of public health duties, and with skill and experience in public health administration and sanitary science. He shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and shall hold office for a term of five years and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

He shall devote his entire time and attention to the duties of his office and shall receive an annual compensation of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00). He may be removed from office by the Governor, for cause.

Any vacancy occurring in the office of commissioner shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, but for the unexpired term only.

4. There shall be in the department a Public Health Council which shall consist of seven members, each of whom shall be chosen with due regard to his knowledge of and interest in public health and each of whom shall be a citizen of this State. Each member shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of seven years and until his successor is appointed and qualified; provided, however, that the first appointments hereunder shall be for terms which shall commence on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five, and shall continue one for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years, one for five years, one for six years and one for seven years. Any member of the Public Health Council may be removed from office by the Governor, for cause.

Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the council for any cause shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but for the unexpired term only.

The members of the council shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

5. There shall be within the department such divisions as the commissioner may, subject to approval by the Public Health Council, from time to time establish. Each division shall be under the supervision of a director, who shall be a person qualified by training and experience to direct the work assigned to it; and two or more divisions may be consolidated by the commissioner. The commissioner may authorize one of the division directors to act for him and in his place, as his deputy, during his absence or disability. The commissioner may delegate such of his powers, as he may deem desirable for the efficient administration of the department, to be exercised under his direction and supervision by one or more of the division directors.

Each division director shall devote his entire time and attention to the performance of his duties.

### ARTICLE III

#### Powers and Duties of the Public Health Council

6. The Public Health Council shall enact and from time to time may amend rules in relation to its meetings and the transaction of its business. It shall meet in the offices of the department at Trenton in each month at such times as its rules may prescribe. It shall meet at such other times and places within the State as, in its judgment, may be necessary. Four members of the council shall constitute a quorum thereof and, except as otherwise provided in section seven of this act, all action shall be taken by a majority vote. The commissioner shall attend all meetings of the council.

The council shall elect one of its members chairman who shall hold office for one year and until his successor shall be elected.

7. The Public Health Council shall have power, by the affirmative vote of a majority of all of its members, to establish, and from time to time amend and repeal, reasonable sanitary regulations. The regulations so established shall be called the State Sanitary Code.

The State Sanitary Code may deal with any matters affecting the security of life or health, or the preservation and improvement of public health and the prevention of disease in the State of New Jersey. In addition thereto, and not in limitation thereof, said State Sanitary Code may contain sanitary regulations prohibiting nuisances hazardous to human health, prohibiting pollution of any water supply, regulating the use of privies and cesspools, regulating the disposition of excremental matter, regulating the control of fly and mosquito breeding places, regulating the detection, reporting, prevention and control of communicable diseases, regulating the conduct of public funerals, regulating the conduct of boarding homes for children, regulating the conduct of maternity homes and the care of maternity and infant patients therein, regulating the conduct of camps, regulating the production, distribution and sale of certified milk, and regulating the preparation, handling, transportation, burial or other disposal, disinterment and reburial of dead human bodies.

8. Every sanitary regulation adopted in accordance with the provisions of section seven of this act shall state the date on which it takes effect, and a copy thereof, duly signed by the chairman of the council, shall be sent by the commissioner to each local board of health and to the governing body of each municipality within the State, and shall be published in such manner as the Public Health Council may from time to time determine. The commissioner, or one of the division directors

designated by him, shall furnish certified copies of the State Sanitary Code and its amendments for a fee of one dollar and such certified copies shall be received in evidence in all courts or other judicial proceedings in the State.

9. The provisions of the State Sanitary Code shall have the force and effect of law. Such code shall be observed throughout the State and enforced by each local board of health. Nothing herein contained however shall be deemed to limit the right of any local board of health to make such ordinances, rules and regulations, as, in its opinion, may be necessary for the particular locality under its jurisdiction; but such ordinances, rules and regulations shall not be in conflict with the laws of this State or the provisions of the State Sanitary Code, except, however, that such ordinances, rules and regulations may be more restrictive than the provisions of the State Sanitary Code.

10. Any violation of any provision of the State Sanitary Code shall be punishable by a penalty of not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars. All such penalties shall be sued for and recovered in an action at law by and in the name of the State Department of Health or by and in the name of the local board of health of the municipality in which the violation occurred.

The pleadings in any such action shall conform in all respects to the practice prevailing in the court in which the action shall be instituted, but no pleading or process shall be set aside or invalidated by reason of any formal or technical defects therein if the same contain a statement of the nature of the alleged violation and of the section of the State Sanitary Code alleged to have been violated. Upon the attention of the court being called to any such formal or technical defect, the same shall be immediately corrected and the pleading or process amended as a matter of course. As to all other defects in pleadings or process, the

same may be amended in the discretion of the court, as in any other action or proceeding in such court.

In any such action when judgment is rendered against a defendant other than a body corporate, execution may be issued against his goods and chattels and body without any order of the court for that purpose first had and obtained.

If the officer executing such writ is unable to find within his jurisdiction sufficient goods and chattels of the defendant to satisfy the judgment, he shall deliver the body of the defendant to the keeper of the common jail of such county, there to be detained until discharged by the court in which the judgment was obtained, or by one of the justices of the supreme court, when such court or justice is satisfied that further confinement will not result in the payment of the judgment and costs.

If judgment is rendered against a body corporate, execution shall be issued against the goods and chattels of such body corporate as in other actions at law.

Any penalty recovered in any such action shall be paid to the plaintiff therein. When the plaintiff is the State Department of Health, the penalty recovered shall be paid by the department to the State Treasurer. When the plaintiff is a local board of health, the penalty recovered shall be paid by the local board into the treasury of the municipality within which the local board has jurisdiction.

11. In addition to its powers and duties otherwise provided in this act, the Public Health Council may:

- a. Request from the commissioner such information, concerning the work of the department, as it may deem necessary.

- b. Consider any matter relating to the preservation and improvement of public health, and may advise the commissioner thereon.
- c. From time to time submit to the commissioner any recommendations which it may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the department.
- d. Study and investigate the public health activities of the State and report its findings thereon to the Governor and the Legislature.

12. Every local board of health shall file with the commissioner a certified copy of every by-law or ordinance of such board immediately upon passage of the same.

The Public Health Council may reverse or modify any order, regulation, by-law or ordinance of any local board of health if, after giving reasonable notice and affording an opportunity to be heard to the members of such local board, it shall determine that such order, regulation, by-law or ordinance concerns a matter which affects the public health beyond the territory over which such local board has jurisdiction.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### Powers and Duties of the Commissioner

13. The commissioner shall, subject to approval by the Public Health Council, prescribe the organization of the department. He shall, subject to the provisions of Title 11 of the Revised Statutes, relating to Civil Service, appoint the directors of the divisions and such other personnel as he may consider necessary for the efficient performance of the work of the department.

He shall prescribe the duties of all such persons thus appointed and shall, subject to approval by the Public Health Council, fix their

compensation within the limits of available appropriations. All such persons thus appointed shall be in the classified service of the Civil Service of the State, unless otherwise provided by law.

14. Subject to approval by the Public Health Council, the commissioner may abolish any office or position which in his judgment may be unnecessary to retain.

15. The commissioner, in addition to his powers and duties otherwise provided in this act or by any other law, shall:

- a. Exercise all functions and powers of the department not specifically vested in the Public Health Council by this act.
- b. Adopt rules and regulations governing the work of the department.
- c. Administer the work of the department.
- d. Execute and enforce all laws relating to the health of the people of the State, and all provisions of the State Sanitary Code.
- e. Administer all laws which are by their terms included under his jurisdiction or under the jurisdiction of the department.
- f. Maintain liaison with local, State and Federal officials and agencies concerned with matters of public health or otherwise related to the functions of the department.
- g. Report to the Governor and the Legislature, with respect to the work of the department, on January fifteenth of each year and at such other times as he may deem in the public interest.

h. Institute or cause to be instituted such legal proceedings or processes as may be necessary properly to enforce and give effect to any of his powers or duties as prescribed in this act.

16. The commissioner shall have full access to any premises for the purpose of examination if there is reason to believe that on the premises there exists a violation of any health law of the State or any provision of the State Sanitary Code.

17. The commissioner shall have the same right of inspection in regard to all matters affecting the public health as has been or may be conferred upon the local boards of health.

18. The commissioner shall exercise general supervision over all matters relating to sanitation and hygiene throughout the state. Whenever in the opinion of the commissioner it is necessary or advisable, a sanitary survey of the whole or of any part of the State shall be made. The commissioner may enter upon, examine and survey any source and means of water supply, sewage disposal plant, sewage system, prison, public or private place of detention, asylum, hospital, school, public building, private institution, factory, workshop, tenement, public wash room, public rest room, public toilet and toilet facility, public eating room and restaurant, and also any premises in which he has reason to believe there exists a violation of any health law of the state, any provision of the State Sanitary Code, or any law of which he has the duty of administering.

19. The commissioner may make a sanitary inspection of any person or property in transportation through the state, and of any car, boat, or other vehicle in which such person or property may be transported, and may enforce such detention or disinfection as may be necessary for the public safety.

20. Every local health official shall furnish the commissioner with such information as the commissioner may require.

21. At least once in every year the commissioner shall call together local health officials for a general conference on the subject of the health of the people of the state, and a discussion of ways and means to promote the same and to prevent disease.

22. Each local board of health may appoint one of its members, officers, or employees as a delegate to attend the annual conference. The actual traveling and hotel expenses of the delegate shall be paid by the treasurer or other disbursing officer of the municipality within which the local board has jurisdiction, upon presentation by the delegate of a certificate of his appointment and a bill of his expenses duly verified by affidavit.

23. The commissioner shall call to the attention of any local board of health, by such notice as may be deemed reasonable, any failure on its part to enforce the laws of the state or the provisions of the State Sanitary Code and afford such local board an opportunity to explain its failure. The determination of the commissioner as to what is a reasonable notice shall be conclusive. If, after a hearing, it is found that no good reason exists for the failure of the local board of health to enforce the law or the provisions of the State Sanitary Code, the commissioner shall issue an order directing it to do so.

If the local board fails to comply with such order within the time specified, or, if none is specified within a reasonable time, the commissioner shall immediately take such action as may be necessary to perform the acts specified in the order.

In all legal proceedings the order of the commissioner shall be prima facie evidence of compliance with the provisions of this section, and conclusive evidence of the violation recited in the order.

24. Any contracts which the commissioner may make for the purpose of carrying out the power given to him in the second paragraph of section twenty-three of this act shall be binding upon the local municipality and shall have the same force and effect as if duly authorized and made by the local board of health.

25. Any moneys expended by the State, and the amount of all obligations incurred by the State Department, to comply with the orders mentioned in section twenty-three of this act may be recovered in an action at law, in the name of the State Department, from the municipality the local board of health of which failed to comply with the order, and when recovered shall be paid to the State Treasurer.

26. Whenever any nuisance or source of foulness within the territorial jurisdiction of any local board of health is of such a nature that, in the opinion of the commissioner, it is hazardous to the health of persons residing within the limits of the jurisdiction of such local board, the department may cause a notice in writing, signed by the commissioner, to be sent to the local board, requiring it to cause the nuisance or source of foulness to be abated within such time as the department by the notice may specify.

27. If no action for the abatement, as provided in section twenty-six of this act shall be taken by the local board within the time specified in the notice, or if in the opinion of the commissioner the action of the local board shall not be such as the necessities of the case seem to him to require, the department may file a bill in the Court of Chancery in the name of the State on the relation of the department for an injunction to prohibit the continuance of the nuisance or source of foulness.

28. Whenever any nuisance or foul odors injurious to the public health within the territorial jurisdiction of a local board shall have a

source of origin outside such territorial jurisdiction, the State Department of Health may file a bill in the Court of Chancery, in the name of the State, on the relation of the department, for an injunction to prohibit the continuance of the nuisance or source of foulness or ill health.

29. Any action instituted under sections twenty-six to twenty-eight of this act shall proceed in the Court of Chancery according to the rules and practice in such cases on the relation of individuals. Cases of emergency shall have precedence over other pending litigation and may have final hearing within such time and on such notice as the chancellor may direct.

30. In every such action in which it shall be ascertained by the Court of Chancery that the nuisance or source of foulness or ill health existed at the time of the filing of the bill, substantially as therein set forth, the court may abate the same by an injunction or otherwise, according to the practice of the court. The court may charge the costs of the action upon the property whereon the nuisance or source of foulness or ill health is found. Payment of the costs may be enforced by the sale of property or any part of it, by writ of fieri facias, or the court may order the persons who caused the nuisance or source of foulness or ill health, or allowed the same to continue, to pay the costs, and may enforce obedience to such order.

31. In case no such nuisance or source of foulness or ill health shall be found to exist, costs shall not be awarded against the department unless it shall appear that no probable cause existed for bringing such suit.

32. Whenever the approval of the Department of Health is required to any act, plan, paper, or proposed undertaking, the commissioner or one of the division directors authorized for such purpose by him, shall examine the same. If such examination is made by a division director he

shall report to the commissioner the results of his examination, together with his recommendations for action. If in conducting such examination the commissioner deems it necessary, he shall conduct hearings and examine witnesses.

33. The commissioner may cause to be made, in the state laboratory, analyses and examinations of samples of water, food, drugs, pathological materials and similar substances, when requested to do so by any person, private or municipal corporation or institution in this state.

The commissioner shall fix the charges to be made for analyses and examinations and shall make rules governing the collection and examination of samples.

All moneys received for the analyses of such samples shall be paid by the commissioner to the State Treasurer.

34. Subject to approval by the Public Health Council, the commissioner may accept and administer for the state any grant, gift or bequest to be applied, principal or income, or both, for the purpose specified in such grant, gift or bequest, to the maintenance and use of any service in or activity of the department.

35. Subject to approval by the Public Health Council, the commissioner may accept the services of any local or Federal official or agency in such manner and in such capacities as he may deem appropriate.

36. Subject to approval by the Governor and the Public Health Council, the commissioner may apply for and accept grants from the Federal Government or any agency thereof, and may comply with the terms, conditions and limitations thereof, for any of the purposes of this act. Any moneys so received may be expended by the department, subject to any limitations imposed in the grant, to effectuate any of the purposes of this act, upon warrant of the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance on vouchers certified or approved by the Commissioner of Health.

## ARTICLE V

### Functions of the Department

37. The department shall formulate comprehensive policies for the promotion of public health and the prevention of disease within the State. It shall in addition to other powers and duties vested in it by this act or by any other law:

- a. Collect, preserve and tabulate all information required by law in reference to births, marriages, deaths and all vital facts and shall obtain, collect and preserve such information relating to the health of the people of the state and to the prevention of disease as may be useful in the discharge of the functions of the department, or as may contribute to the welfare of the people of the state.
- b. Prepare and administer or supervise a state-wide program of health education. It shall prepare and make available to practicing physicians in the state technical information concerning public health. It shall cooperate with the Commissioner of Education in the preparation and distribution of health bulletins among all the public schools of the state for the purpose of educating children in sanitation and hygiene.
- c. Administer or supervise a program of public health nursing. It shall prescribe the minimum qualifications of all public health nurses. It shall encourage and co-ordinate local public health nursing services and shall direct their activities toward the accomplishment of a unified state-wide plan.

- d. Encourage, direct and co-ordinate local programs concerning control of preventable diseases in accordance with a unified state-wide plan which shall be formulated by the department.
- e. Administer or supervise a program of maternal and child health services. It may encourage and co-ordinate local programs concerning maternal and infant hygiene. It may establish and maintain prenatal and post-natal clinics.
- f. Administer or supervise a program of dental health. It shall encourage and co-ordinate local programs concerning dental health.
- g. Establish and maintain adequate serological, bacteriological and chemical laboratories with such expert assistance and such facilities as are necessary for routine examinations and analyses, and for original investigations and research in matters affecting public health.
- h. Administer or supervise a program of industrial hygiene. It shall encourage the establishment of medical, dental, environmental engineering and nursing services in all industrial plants in the state. It shall cooperate with the State Department of Labor in formulating rules and regulations concerning industrial sanitary conditions.
- i. Supervise all sanitary engineering facilities and projects within the state. It shall make and enforce rules and regulations concerning plans and

specifications for the construction, improvement and operation of all water supplies, sewage systems, sewage disposal plants, public bathing places and all other sanitary engineering projects. It shall require all such plans and specifications to first be approved by it before any work thereunder shall be commenced. The department shall inspect all such projects during the progress thereof and shall enforce compliance with such approved plans and specifications.

- j. Regulate the sanitation and safety for consumption of milk, meats, other foods and drugs. It shall enforce the state food and drug laws and collaborate in the enforcement of the Federal Food and Drug Act.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### Examination and Licensing of Health Officers and Inspectors

38. The Public Health Council shall prescribe the qualifications of health officers, sanitary inspectors and plumbing inspectors.

As used in this section and sections thirty-nine to forty-two of this act, "sanitary inspector" applies to every officer appointed by a local board of health to aid in the enforcement of the sanitary laws of this state, or the rules, regulations and ordinances of such local board, excepting health officers and persons performing merely clerical duties in the office of the local board.

39. The commissioner shall cause examinations to be conducted in such manner and at such times and places as he may prescribe, for the purpose of determining the qualifications of applicants for license as health officers, sanitary inspectors and plumbing inspectors.

40. Every such examination shall be in such subjects as the commissioner shall direct,

41. The commissioner shall, in the name of the department, issue the following classes of licenses:

- a. Health officer's license.
- b. Sanitary inspector's license of the first class.
- c. Sanitary inspector's license of the second class.
- d. Sanitary inspector's license of the third class.
- e. Plumbing inspector's license.

42. Every applicant whose examination shall be approved by the commissioner shall receive the license to which his examination may entitle him.

43. Any license issued in accordance with the provisions of this article may be suspended or revoked, in the manner provided in section forty-four hereof, for any of the following causes:

- a. Violation of any of the provisions of this act or of any law relating to public health;
- b. Violation of any provision of the State Sanitary Code;
- c. Violation of any applicable local health regulation or ordinance;
- d. Violation of any rule or regulation promulgated by the commissioner or the Public Health Council; or
- e. For any act or happening occurring after the making of application for such license which, if the same had occurred prior to said time, would have prevented the issuance of such license.

44. Upon written charges alleging any such violation, act or happening being filed by the commissioner with the local board of health within whose territory or jurisdiction such violation, act or happening occurred, said local board shall thereupon fix a time and place for a hearing before it

thereon. Said local board of health shall, at least ten days prior to such hearing, cause to be served upon the licensee, either personally or by mailing the same by registered mail addressed to him at his home address, a written copy of the charges and a written notice of the time and place of the hearing.

At the hearing the local board shall hear all witnesses and receive all evidence produced, and if the charges are found to be true in fact, and just cause be shown, the local board may suspend or revoke said license.

A suspension or revocation of license shall be effected by a notice in writing of such suspension or revocation, designating the effective date thereof, and in case of suspension, the term of such suspension, which notice may be served upon the licensee personally or by mailing the same by registered mail addressed to him at his home address.

A copy of such notice of suspension or revocation of license shall be filed by the local board with the commissioner.

## ARTICLE VII

### Hearings and Investigations

45. Whenever it is necessary for the Department of Health to hold any hearing or to make any investigation, under any law or rule, the hearing may be held or the examination made by the direction of the commissioner, in accordance with such rules as he may prescribe. The hearing or investigation may be before the commissioner or one of the division directors. If before a division director, he shall submit to the commissioner the evidence taken by him, together with his recommendations.

46. The commissioner and any division director authorized for such purpose by him, may, in any part of the state, administer oaths and examine witnesses under oath in any matter relating to the powers and

duties of the department, or to the health of the people of the state, or to the prevention of disease. Any persons who, having been so sworn, willfully gives false testimony shall be guilty of perjury.

47. The commissioner may issue subpoenas, signed by him requiring the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and papers in any part of the state before him, or one of the division directors.

48. Any person who, being served with a subpoena issued pursuant to the provisions of section forty-seven of this act, shall fail to attend or give testimony, unless such testimony incriminate him or subject him to a fine or punishment, shall be liable to a penalty of five hundred dollars for each offense, to be recovered in the name of the state; the penalty, when recovered, to be paid to the State Treasurer.

49. The Attorney General shall prosecute the action for the recovery of the penalty prescribed in section forty-eight of this act when requested so to do by the commissioner, and when, in his judgment, the facts and the law warrant such prosecution.

## ARTICLE VIII

### State Health Districts

50. The commissioner may, subject to approval by the Public Health Council, from time to time establish such health districts as he may deem necessary. He shall appoint, for each of such districts, a district state health officer who shall be a person qualified in public health administration. The commissioner shall, subject to approval by the Public Health Council, and within the limits of available appropriations therefor, fix the compensation of each of the district state health officers thus appointed. Each district state health officer, under the direction of the commissioner and subject to the provisions of the State Sanitary Code, shall, in addition to such other duties as may be imposed upon him by the commissioner, perform the following duties:

- a. Keep himself informed as to the work of each local health officer within his health district;
- b. Aid each local health officer within his health district in the performance of his duties, and particularly on the appearance of any contagious disease;
- c. Assist each local health officer within his health district in making an annual health survey of the territory within his jurisdiction, and in maintaining therein a continuous sanitary supervision;
- d. Call together the local health officers within the district or any portion of it from time to time for conference;
- e. Adjust questions of jurisdiction arising between local health officers within his district;
- f. Study the causes of excessive mortality from any disease in any portion of his district;
- g. Promote efficient registration of births and deaths;
- h. Endeavor to enlist the cooperation of all the organizations concerned or interested in public health activities within his district, in the improvement of public health therein;
- i. Disseminate information to the general public in all matters pertaining to public health; and
- j. Act as the representative of the commissioner, and under his direction, in securing the enforcement within his district of the provisions of the State Sanitary Code and of the laws of this State pertaining to public health.

## ARTICLE IX

### General

51. The offices of Perth Amboy port health officer and deputy Perth Amboy port health officer are hereby abolished. The terms of office of the present Perth Amboy port health officer and deputy Perth Amboy port health officer shall expire on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five.

52. The functions, powers, duties, records and property of the present State Department of Health and of the Perth Amboy port health officer are hereby transferred to and vested in the State Department of Health established under this act, to be exercised and used by it pursuant to the provisions of this act and as otherwise provided by law.

53. The terms of office of all of the members of the present State Board of Health shall expire on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five.

54. The term of office of the present State Director of Health shall expire on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five, but he shall continue in office until a State Commissioner of Health is appointed and qualified as provided in section three of this act.

55. The functions, powers and duties of the State Board of Health and the functions, powers and duties of the present Director of Health are hereby transferred to and vested in the State Department of Health established under this act, to be exercised in accordance with the provisions of this act and as otherwise provided by law.

56. The regulations contained in the present State Sanitary Code shall continue with full force and effect until otherwise amended or repealed in the manner provided in sections seven and eight of this act.

57. All appropriations available and to become available to the present State Department of Health and all appropriations available and to become available to the offices abolished by this act are hereby transferred to the State Department of Health established under this act.

58. The employees of the present State Department of Health, except as otherwise provided in this act, are hereby transferred to the State Department of Health established under this act. Persons so transferred shall be assigned to such duties as the commissioner shall determine.

59. Nothing in this act shall be construed to deprive any person of any right or protection provided him by Title 11 of the Revised Statutes or by any pension law or retirement system.

60. The department shall be provided with suitable quarters which shall be sufficient to house all of the divisions of the department within the same building.

61. Whenever the terms "State Board of Health," "State Department of Health" and "Department of Health" occur or any reference is made to any of said terms, in any law, they, and each of them shall be deemed to mean or refer to the State Department of Health as described in this act. The Commissioner of Health shall, except as may be otherwise provided by this act, have all powers conferred and perform all the duties imposed by law upon the State Board of Health, or any member, committee or officer thereof, including the secretary.

62. Whenever the terms "State Director of Health," "Perth Amboy port health officer" and "deputy Perth Amboy port health officer" occur or any reference is made to any of said terms, in any law, they, and each of them, shall be deemed to mean or refer to the State Commissioner of Health as described in this act.

63. This act shall not affect actions or proceedings, civil or criminal, brought by or against the State Board of Health or the State Department of Health, and pending on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five, but such actions or proceedings may be prosecuted or defended in the same manner and to the same effect by the State Commissioner of Health as if the foregoing provisions had not taken effect. Nor shall any of the foregoing provisions affect in any manner any order or recommendation made by, or other matters or proceedings before such State Board of Health or State Department of Health, and all such matters and proceedings pending before such board or department on said date shall be continued before the State Commissioner of Health.

64. Section 26:1-1 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

26:1-1. As used in this title (:) unless otherwise specifically indicated: "State department", "department of health" and "department" mean (s) the State Department of Health ("department of health of the state of New Jersey".);

("State board" means the state board of health which is the governing head of the department.)

"Commissioner" or "Director" (, except in chapter 9 of this title (Sec. 26:9-1 et seq.),) means the State Commissioner of Health who is the head of the State Department of Health (director of health who is the chief executive officer of the state board of health.);

"Council" means the Public Health Council in the State Department of Health;

"Division director" means the director of one of the divisions in the State Department of Health;

"Local board" or "local board of health" means the board of health of any municipality or the boards, bodies or officers in such municipality lawfully exercising any of the powers of a local board of health under the laws governing such municipality.

65. The following sections of the Revised Statutes are hereby repealed: Revised Statutes, sections 26:2-1 to 26:2-55 inclusive, 26:4-111, 26:4-114 and 26:4-115. In addition thereto, all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with any of the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

66. This act shall take effect on the first day of July, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five except that any appointment and any confirmation of any appointment permitted by this act may be made prior to such date.

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#### S T A T E M E N T

The purpose of this bill is to consolidate and co-ordinate the public health activities of the State. For this purpose the bill creates a Department of Health consisting of a commissioner, a public health council and such divisions as the commissioner may, subject to approval by the Public Health Council, establish.

The functions, powers and duties of the State Department of Health, the State Board of Health, the State Director of Health, the Perth Amboy Port Health Officer and the Deputy Perth Amboy Port Health Officer are transferred to the new Department of Health. The commissioner will be the administrative head of the department. He will be primarily charged with the responsibility for administering the health programs of the State.

The Public Health Council will advise the commissioner on matters relating to the preservation and improvement of public health. It will also: (1) enact a State Sanitary Code; (2) study and investigate public

health activities in the State; (3) prescribe the qualifications of health officers, sanitary inspectors and plumbing inspectors; and (4) approve or disapprove the following: (a) the organization of the department as prescribed by the commissioner; (b) the compensation of the directors of the divisions and other personnel of the department as fixed by the commissioner; (c) the commissioner's abolition of any office or position in the department; (d) the acceptance and administration by the commissioner of any gift to the State for public health purposes; and (e) the acceptance by the commissioner of the services of local or Federal officials or agencies.

The acceptance by the commissioner of Federal grants for public health purposes will be subject to approval by the Governor and the Public Health Council.

The bill provides for the co-ordination of the public health activities of the State in the following fields: (1) maternal and child health services; (2) dental health; (3) public health nursing; (4) industrial hygiene; (5) sanitary engineering facilities; and (6) laboratory analyses. It also authorizes the commissioner, subject to approval by the Public Health Council, to establish state health districts to facilitate the integration and co-ordination of local health activities.