

CHAPTER 65 - HOSPITAL FEES
A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEVY OF FEES IN GOVERNMENT
HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES

[30 August 1917]

1. This Law may be cited as the Hospital Fees Law.

2. Definitions:-

"hospital" means a Government hospital or Government dispensary;

"moneys payable in pursuance of any regulation under this Law" includes any funeral expenses incurred in the case of the death of a patient in the hospital;

"servant" means any artificer, journeyman, handcraftsman, canoeman, hammockman, carrier, messenger, labourer, domestic servant or apprentice.

3. The Governor may make regulations with regard to the following matters:-

(a) specifying the terms and conditions on which patients may obtain medicine and surgical appliances at hospitals, or may be received into a hospital;

(b) fixing the scale of charges to be paid by patients or classes of patients obtaining medicines or surgical appliances at or receiving attendance or treatment in any hospital; and

(c) generally for carrying out the purposes of this Law.

4. All moneys payable in pursuance of any regulation made under this Law in respect of a master, officer or seaman of a ship shall be recoverable from the master, or from the owner, consignee or charterer, or the agent of such owner, consignee or charterer:

Provided that any consignee or agent who shall have paid any such moneys may, out of any moneys received on account of such ship or belonging to the owner or charterer thereof, retain the amount of all moneys so paid with any reasonable expenses incurred.

5.—(1) The employer of a servant who shall have received any medicine or surgical attendance at, or shall be admitted as a patient in a hospital, even though not upon the request of the employer, shall be liable to pay any moneys payable in pursuance of any regulation under this Law in respect of such servant in the cases following:-

(a) if the servant shall have been injured in the course of his employment; or

(b) if the employer is under a legal obligation to supply the servant with medicine or medical attendance; or

(c) if the servant shall have been brought to the place at which he was employed by or at the expense of the employer.

(2) An employer shall not be liable by virtue of the provisions of subsection (1) to pay for attendance upon or treatment of his servant in a hospital for any period exceeding three months.

6.—(1) All moneys payable in pursuance of any regulation made under this Law shall be paid to the medical officer in charge of the hospital, and in case such moneys are not so paid the principal officer of the Treasury of the State or any person appointed by the principal officer of the Treasury of the State in that behalf may sue for and recover the same with full cost of suit.

(2) In any such proceedings a statement signed by a medical officer setting forth the amount claimed from the defendant shall be admitted in evidence without proof of the signature, and shall be prima facie evidence of the amount due.

7. Any person who:-

(a) for valuable consideration disposes of any medicine or surgical appliance obtained by him from a hospital without payment; or

(b) by any false representation obtains without payment or at reduced rate of payment any medicine, surgical appliance, attendance or treatment at a hospital, shall be liable to a fine of one hundred naira in addition to paying for the medicine, surgical appliance, attendance or treatment at the highest rate prescribed by or under any regulation under this Law.