

# VENEREAL DISEASES

## CHAPTER 237.

(S. B. No. 140—Public Health Committee.)

### VENEREAL DISEASES.

An Act Designating Venereal Diseases; Prohibiting Infected Persons from Exposing Others; Requiring Reports to Health Officers; Empowering Health Boards to Regulate, Make Rules to Regulate and Control Such Diseases and Providing Penalty and Repeal.

*Be it Enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the State of North Dakota:*

Sec. 1. That syphilis, gonorrhea and chainroid hereinafter designated as venereal diseases are hereby declared to be contagious, infectious, communicable and dangerous to the public health. It shall be unlawful for anyone infected with these diseases or any of them to expose another person to infection.

Sec. 2. Any physician or other person who makes a diagnosis in or treats a case of venereal disease, and any superintendent or manager of a hospital, dispensary, or charitable or penal institution in which there is a case of venereal disease, shall make a report of such case to the health authorities according to such form and manner as the State Board of Health shall direct.

Sec. 3. State, County and Municipal health officers, or their authorized deputies, within their respective jurisdictions are hereby directed and empowered, when in their judgment it is necessary to protect the public health, to make examinations of persons reasonably suspected of being infected with venereal disease, and to detain such persons until the results of such examinations are known, to require persons infected with venereal disease to report for treatment to a reputable physician and continue treatment until cured or to submit to treatment provided at public expense until cured, and also, when in their judgment it is necessary to protect the public health, to isolate or quarantine persons infected with venereal disease. It shall be the duty of all local and state health officers to investigate sources of infection of venereal disease, to co-operate with the proper officials whose duty it is to enforce laws directed against prostitution and otherwise to use every proper means for the repression of prostitution.

Sec. 4. All persons convicted of a crime or held in quarantine, under the provisions of this Act, who shall be confined or imprisoned in any State, county or city prison in the State shall be examined for and if infected, treated for venereal diseases by the health authorities or their deputies. The prison authorities of any state, county or city prison are directed to make available to the health authorities such portion of any state, county, or

city prison as may be necessary for a clinic or hospital wherein all persons who may be confined or imprisoned in any such prison and who are infected with venereal disease, and all such persons who are suffering with venereal disease at the time of the expiration of their terms of imprisonment, and, in case no other suitable place for isolation or quarantine is available, such other persons as may be isolated or quarantined under the provisions of Section 3, shall be isolated and treated at public expenses until cured, or, in lieu of such isolation any of such persons may, in the discretion of the Board of Health, be required to report for treatment to a licensed physician, or submit to treatment provided at public expense as provided in Section 3. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to interfere with the service of any sentence imposed by a court as a punishment for the commission of crime.

Sec. 5. The State Board of Health is hereby empowered and directed to make such rules and regulations as shall in its judgment be necessary for the carrying out of the provisions of this Act, including rules and regulations providing for the control and treatment of persons isolated or quarantined under the provisions of Section 3, and such other rules and regulations, not in conflict with the provisions of this Act, concerning the control of venereal diseases, and concerning the care, treatment and quarantine of persons infected therewith, as it may from time to time deem advisable. All such rules and regulations so made shall be of force and binding upon all county and municipal health officers and other persons affected by this Act, and shall have the force and effect of law.

Sec. 6. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act or any lawful rule or regulation made by the State Board of Health pursuant to the authority herein granted, or who shall fail or refuse to obey any lawful order issued by any state, county or municipal health officer, pursuant to the authority granted in this Act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 7. All Acts or parts of Acts insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 8. EMERGENCY.) Whereas, it is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety that this Act shall become effective without delay, there being at present no law covering such Acts and the lack of the same resulting in widespread vice and venereal disease, therefore, this Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved February 24, 1919.