

HOSPITAL FUND.

22° GEO. V., No. LV.

No. 55 of 1931.

AN ACT to amend sections eleven, twelve, and thirteen of the Hospital Fund Act, 1930, and to make provision in regard to relief of certain persons from liability for payment for Hospital services.

[Assented to 29th December, 1931.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the *Hospital Fund Act* Short title. *Amendment Act, 1931*, and shall be read as one with the Hospital Fund Act, 1930 (No. 39 of 1930), hereinafter referred to as the principal Act.

2. Section eleven of the principal Act is amended, as follows:— Amendment of s. 11.

- (a) by inserting after the word "exempt" in subsection (1) the words "either in whole or in part";
- (b) by adding at the end of subsection (1) the words "if upon an action taken by a public hospital against any such person the court, having regard to the means of the defendant and the circumstances of the case, shall so decide. Where in any case the court is of opinion that the defendant is able to make some payment in respect of the cost of hos-

pital service sought to be recovered from him, the court may enter judgment against such defendant accordingly.”

New Section.

3. A section is inserted in the principal Act, after section eleven, as follows:—

Persons to give to hospital notice of intention to claim exemption.

11A. (1.) Any person intending to claim exemption from liability for cost of hospital service shall, as soon as reasonably may be, give notice thereof in writing to the hospital authority, together with satisfactory proof that he is a person to whom section eleven of this Act applies.

(2.) The hospital authority, upon receipt of such notice and proof to its satisfaction that the claimant is a person to whom section eleven of this Act applies, shall inquire into the means of the claimant and the circumstances of the case, and shall exempt the claimant either in whole or in part from liability for cost of the hospital service supplied to him, according as his means and the circumstances of the case shall require.

Amendment of s. 12.

4. Section twelve of the principal Act is amended, as follows:—

- (a) by deleting the words “hospital benefit,” in line one, and inserting in lieu thereof the word “exemption”;
- (b) by inserting after the word “authority,” in line three, the words “or the court, as the case may be”;
- (c) by deleting the word “benefit,” in line one of the proviso, and inserting in lieu thereof the word “exemption”;
- (d) by inserting after the word “authority,” in line two of the proviso, the words “or the court.”

New section.

5. A section is inserted in the principal Act, after section twelve, as follows:—

Allowance and refund in respect of donation to public hospitals.

12A. (1.) Where in any financial year any contributor to the Fund under section five or section eight of this Act shall have made to a public hospital any donation in money (not being a payment for the purpose of obtaining free hospital service), and shall furnish satisfactory

proof thereof to the Commissioner at any time before the end of such financial year, the Commissioner shall give to such contributor credit for the amount of such donation against the amount of the contribution to the Fund payable by such contributor in respect of such financial year, and the contributor shall be liable only for the balance (if any) of the contribution to the Fund for which he has been assessed.

(2.) Where in any financial year any contributor to the Fund under section nine of this Act shall have made to a public hospital any donation in money (not being a payment for the purpose of obtaining free hospital service), and shall furnish satisfactory proof thereof to the Minister at any time before the end of such financial year, the Minister shall refund to such contributor, as soon as may be after the end of such financial year, an amount equal to the amount of such donation, but not in any event exceeding the amount of contributions to the Fund paid by such contributor during such financial year.

6. Section thirteen of the principal Act is amended by inserting therein a new paragraph, as follows:—

Amendment of
s. 13.

(e) refunding to contributors the amount of donations made by them to public hospitals.

7. The principal Act as amended by this Act may be cited as the Hospital Fund Act, 1930-1931.

Citation of principal
Act as amended.