



## CHAPTER 55

An Act for the prevention of venereal diseases

[Assented to, the 20th of March, 1941]

**HIS MAJESTY**, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and of the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, enacts as follows:

**1.** This act may be cited as the *Venereal Diseases Prevention Act*. Short title.

**2.** For the purposes of this act, unless the context is contrary thereto: Interpretation:

1. "Director" means the medical director of the venereal diseases branch of the Department of Health and Social Welfare of the Province; "Director";

2. "Venereal disease" means syphilis, gonorrhœa, chancroid or inguinal lympho-granulomatosa. "Venereal disease".

**3.** Every physician, every medical superintendent of a hospital and every head of a public institution or of a place of detention shall make a report to the Director, on the prescribed form, within a delay of forty-eight hours, of every case of venereal disease which he has under his supervision or in his care. The patient must be designated by a number, with mention of the age and sex of such patient and the name of the municipality where the latter resides. Report to the Director.

**4.** Every physician shall, within twenty days, make a report to the Director giving the name and address of every patient apt to communicate a venereal disease who refuses, neglects or ceases to follow the requisite treatment regularly, unless the said physician receives written notice from another physician that such patient is following like treatment. Patient refusing treatment: report.

Powers of the  
Director.

**5.** Whenever the Director is informed that a person residing in the Province is infected with a venereal disease and refuses, neglects or ceases to follow the requisite treatment and is apt to spread the infection, he may:

Inquiry, etc.

1. Instruct one of his medical officers or any other physician to make an inquiry and examine such person;

Treatment,  
isolation.

2. If such person is found to be infected and apt to spread the infection, take the required steps to have such person properly treated or, if he deems it necessary, have the latter isolated in a hospital, gaol or other place of detention as long as may be needed in order that such person be properly treated and be no longer apt to spread infection.

Examination  
of certain  
prisoners.

**6.** Whenever any person is apprehended or imprisoned for a sexual offence or as a prostitute, street-walker or vagrant, the physician of the gaol or other place of detention shall immediately examine such person in order to ascertain if the latter is suffering from a venereal disease.

Report when  
examination  
discloses  
disease.

If the examination shows that such person is suffering from a venereal disease, the physician of the gaol or other place of detention must make a report to the Director within forty-eight hours, and the latter shall thereupon give the requisite instructions for the treatment and if necessary orders for the isolation of such person. The patient must follow the course of treatment prescribed and every physician, gaoler or other officer having charge of such person in a gaol or other place of detention shall carry out the Director's instructions and see that they are complied with.

Compulsory  
treatment.

Arrest of  
persons to be  
isolated.

**7.** When the Director orders a person to be isolated in virtue of the preceding sections, he shall send a written order to the Director of the Provincial Police Force directing all constables to apprehend and convey such person to the place of detention mentioned in the order, and instructing the custodian in charge of such place of detention to detain the said person until the release of the latter be authorized by the Director; and such order shall be a sufficient warrant to authorize the apprehending and detention of such person according to its tenor.

Examination  
in certain  
hospitals.

**8.** Every hospital receiving grants under the Quebec Public Charities Act (Revised Statutes, 1925, chapter

189) shall provide for the examination and treatment of persons sent to it suffering from venereal disease.

**9.** Every municipality may establish special dispensaries and hospitals for the treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases or subsidize like institutions for such treatment. Dispensaries, etc., may be established.

**10.** Every person who knowingly or negligently communicates a venereal disease to another person shall be liable, on summary proceeding, to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months. Wilfully communicating disease.

**11.** The Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall determine by regulation: Regulations.

*a.* The forms to be used for the reports, notices, certificates and orders provided for by this act;

*b.* The methods of examination and treatment in places of detention;

*c.* The precautions to be taken to avoid contagion;

*d.* The posting up of notices in places deemed suitable.

Such regulations shall come into force on the day of their publication in the *Quebec Official Gazette* or on such later date as may be fixed therein. Coming into force.

**12.** Every person charged with any duty relating to the carrying out of this act must observe secrecy and is forbidden to divulge any information obtained with respect to same, except to the extent necessary for the discharge of his duties. Secrecy.

Any physician who transmits the information required by this act or by the regulations made thereunder, and any physician who, when it is necessary to prevent contagion and in the interest of justice, deems it to be his duty to warn persons exposed to the contagion of venereal disease, is not and shall not be bound to preserve professional secrecy. Exception.

**13.** Any person who infringes any provision of this act or of any order or regulation made under the authority thereof, or who obstructs in any way the discharge by a physician or officer of the duties assigned to him by the Director under this act or under any order or regulation made under the authority thereof, shall be liable, on summary proceeding, to a fine of from twenty-five to one hundred dollars. Infringement and fine.

Proceedings  
*in camera*,  
etc.

**14.** All judicial proceedings relating to the carrying out of this act shall be heard *in camera* and no account thereof shall be published except in the judicial reports provided that the names of the parties to the proceedings be not mentioned.

Report of  
analysis  
makes *prima*  
*facie* proof.

**15.** Every report of analysis and of bacteriological examination emanating from a laboratory under the direction of the Minister of Health and Social Welfare shall make *prima facie* proof of the facts therein stated.

R. S., c. 186,  
ss. 90-94,  
repealed.

**16.** Sections 90, 91, 92, 93 and 94 of the Quebec Public Health Act (Revised Statutes, 1925, chapter 186) are repealed.

Carrying out  
of act.

**17.** The Minister of Health and Social Welfare shall have charge of the carrying out of this act.

Coming into  
force.

**18.** This act shall come into force on the day of its sanction.