

**BYE-LAWS FOR THE
REGULATION & GOVERNMENT
OF THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY,
IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT**

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Bye-laws for the Regulation & Government of the House of Industry, in the Isle of Wight by
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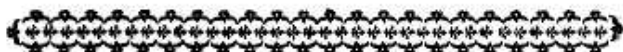
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BYE-LAWS,
FOR THE
REGULATION & GOVERNMENT
OF THE
HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, &c.

I.



THAT all poor persons, single or married, without families, who are unable to maintain themselves, be taken into the house, and not supported out of it by any settled allowance or pension.

II.

That all poor persons, whose families are too large to be maintained by their own labour, may offer one or more of their children to be received into the house, at the discretion of the weekly committee.

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III. That

III.

That orders for admission into the house be made by a committee only; except in casualties, or sudden illness subsequent to the last committee, when an immediate admittance may be necessary: in such cases (and in such only), two directors, or acting guardians, may give an order for the same on any other day; as may the surgeon alone, in cases which happen in the night; with the further exception, that persons sent by order of removal, or by a vagrant pass, be immediately received, without any other authority; but that the persons thus admitted be reported to the next committee.

IV.

That poor persons received into the house, for temporary relief only, shall not be deprived of their household goods, furniture or other property. But such wearing apparel, and other goods, as any pauper may bring into the house, shall be deemed and taken to be the property of the guardians of the poor, during the time such person shall be maintained in the house.

V.

That pensions may be granted by a quarterly meeting—but in extraordinary cases only; such as blindness, lunacy, epilepsy, and the like; in which, admission into the house may be judged improper; provided, that an examination be previously taken on oath, respecting the place of
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the pauper's settlement, and the inability of himself, and such of his relations as are compellable by law to maintain him: provided also, that nothing herein contained be construed to make void any pension already granted; but that the same be continued and renewed, unless such pensioners appear, on a similar examination, to be improper objects of relief from any parish within the island.

VI.

That a weekly committee may grant to the use of any poor labourer's wife, on the birth of a fourth, fifth, or sixth child, the respective sums of five shillings, seven shillings and sixpence, or ten shillings and sixpence, according as he may then have living, four, five, or six children, under fourteen years of age;—but, that five shillings thereof be applied, by the overseer, to the payment of the midwife.

VII.

That one churchwarden, or overseer of the poor, of every parish, be obliged to apply to the weekly committee on every sitting, either in person, or by a director, or acting guardian, and to report (after due enquiry made by himself, at the respective dwellings of the poor) the number and ages of the family, and other circumstances, including the place of settlement, as well as the illness of all persons in his parish, who may ask for, and stand in need of, relief, under the penalty of any sum, not less than forty shillings and
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not exceeding five pounds, as directed by the act; but that relief may be granted to any pauper, who may be in the same manner reported by the surgeon, a director, or acting guardian.

VIII.

That in case of an application wherein the preceding regulation hath not been adhered to, the committee, if it see proper, may entrust a director, or acting guardian, or the surgeon, with an order of relief, to be delivered, or not, to the pauper, according as the person, thus entrusted, may find the circumstances of the case; or the committee may order the surgeon, or parish-officer, to visit the said pauper, and to make a report, as before required, to the next committee, which may then give relief from the time of the first application.

IX.

That when any poor person, by casualty, or sudden illness, subsequent to the last holden committee, may stand in need of immediate relief, before application can be made to the next ensuing; a director, or acting guardian, on the knowledge of the fact and necessity of the case, may recommend such person to the care of the surgeon, (which may likewise be done in all cases of sickness among the poor, though no pecuniary relief be applied for) and may, where necessary, order, in writing, a reasonable sum, not exceeding the usual earnings of the sick person, after the rate of one shilling a day for a man, and
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so for others in proportion, as a temporary support till the next weekly committee; to which the overseer of the respective parish must in person report the circumstances, and receive directions for the farther relief of the pauper; and (to be entitled to the allowance of the sum ordered on the settling of his accounts) must, at the same time, return the said order for confirmation, by being signed by the chairman.

X.

That all casual poor, relieved by the order of a director, or acting guardian, shall, on the report of the surgeon at the next weekly committee, be ordered into the house, or relieved out of it, as shall appear expedient for the health of the patient.

XI.

That the weekly committee, on application of an overseer, may grant monthly relief out of the house to the families of men impressed into the sea-service, during their continuance as impressed men, not exceeding the sum of one shilling and sixpence a week, for two children under the age of ten years; the sum of two shillings a week, for three such children; and the sum of three shillings a week, for four such; to be paid weekly by the respective overseers, who are required to stop payment on the death or discharge of any such man, and report the state of the family to the next weekly committee; and that this proportion of relief be adopted in all similar cases.

XII.

That when it shall appear to a weekly committee that labour in husbandry cannot be obtained at the usual wages, on account of a general existing scarcity of work, the committee may order any reasonable sum, not exceeding one fourth of the real earnings of such labourers, employed by its consent, to be paid by overseers to the different persons employing them, so that such earnings do not exceed six shillings a week for each man, and so in proportion for others. And when such earnings do necessarily fall short of six shillings a week, merely on account of the unseasonableness of the weather (as in deep snow or hard frosts), the deficiency may be made up to that sum, for a man who has a family to maintain:

XIII.

That a sum, not exceeding ten pounds in any one year, be laid out in purchasing spinning-wheels, cards, and such like implements of work, for the use of the industrious poor women and children; which, after being marked "HOUSE OF INDUSTRY," may be lent or given them, at the discretion of the weekly committee; and that work in spinning, knitting, &c. shall be supplied from the house, by an order from the said committee, to all persons of the above description, who may not be able to procure any such work elsewhere.

XIV. That