

hospital or hospitals as may be necessary for that purpose, and to provide therein a room or rooms, or ward or wards, for the care of confinement cases, and a room or rooms, or ward or wards, for the temporary care of persons suffering from mental or nervous disease, and also to make provision in separate buildings for patients suffering from tuberculosis and other communicable diseases, and from time to time to add thereto accommodations sufficient to take care of the patients of the county. This time may be extended by the State board of health for good cause shown. Unless adequate funds for the building of said hospital can be derived from current funds of the county, available for such purpose, issuance of county warrants and script, it shall be the duty of the commissioners' court to submit, either at a special election called for the purpose or at a regular election, the proposition of the issuance of county bonds for the purpose of building such hospital. If the proposition shall fail to receive a majority vote at such election said commissioners' court may be required thereafter at intervals of not less than 12 months, upon petition of 10 per cent of the qualified voters of said county, to submit said proposition until same shall receive the requisite vote authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

Sec. 16. Where found to be more practicable and when approved by the State board of health, two or more adjacent counties having each a population of less than 15,000 persons may join for the purpose of this act, and erect one or more hospitals for their joint use, under the terms and conditions above set forth for a single county. In such cases such combined counties shall have the same powers, and be subject to the same liabilities as a single county, herein provided for; and the district court in either county shall in such case have the same powers for the purpose of enforcing this act, as are herein provided for in case of single counties.

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