

When effective. Section 5. This act shall become effective immediately upon its final enactment.

APPROVED—The 28th day of April, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 107

AN ACT

Creating a court of record for the County of Philadelphia to be known as the Family Court; conferring, defining, prescribing and regulating the jurisdiction and powers of said court and of the judges thereof and prescribing the procedure therein; providing for the appointment, election and salaries of the judges of said court, and for the appointment of the officers, clerks and employes thereof; providing for the costs and expenses thereof; providing for the transfer to said court of the jurisdiction in certain proceedings now vested in the orphans' court, the municipal court of Philadelphia and other courts, and for the transfer of certain actions pending in said courts; and repealing existing laws.

The Family Court.

Purpose of the act is to secure uniform administration of matters relating to the family.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That—

Purposes and Basic Principles.—The basic purpose and principle of this act is to secure uniform administration in one court of matters pertaining to family relations and to secure for each child under its jurisdiction, such guidance, care, custody and control, preferably in his own home or by placement, as will serve the home or the child's welfare and the best interests of the Commonwealth.

The principle is hereby recognized that children under the jurisdiction of the court are wards of the Commonwealth, subject to the discipline and entitled to the protection of the Commonwealth, which may intervene to safeguard them from neglect and injury and to enforce the legal obligations due to them and from them.

Act to be liberally construed.

Section 2. Construction of Act.—This act shall be liberally construed to accomplish the purposes herein declared.

Family Court created.

Section 3. Family Court Created; General Powers.—There is hereby created in the judicial district composed of the County of Philadelphia, a court of record, to be known as the "Family Court." The court shall consist of four judges, learned in the law. The Family Court shall have all the powers of a court of record possessed by the courts of common pleas and quarter sessions of the peace.

Court to consist of 4 judges.

Judge of Family Court eligible to sit as common pleas court judge.

Any judge or judges of the Family Court, when called upon by the president judge of any of the courts of common pleas of the first judicial district, but without interference with the proper conduct of the business

of the Family Court, shall have power to hear and to determine upon the certification, hereinafter provided for, of pleas, actions, causes, civil or criminal issues, and all issues and other matters in equity in the courts of common pleas, courts of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery, and courts of quarter sessions of the peace for said judicial district, so fully and effectually and to dispose thereof in the same manner as may be done by the judges of the courts of common pleas of the said judicial district. Whenever the proper disposition of business requires it, an arrangement can be made with the judge or judges of the said Family Court for such services, and the president judge, or in his absence or disability, any additional law judge of any of the courts of common pleas or said judicial districts, may certify matters or issues to be heard and determined by such judge of the Family Court specially presiding, as aforesaid.

Section 4. Election of Judges; Vacancies; Compensation; Powers of Justice of the Peace.—The judges of the Family Court shall be elected by the voters of the County of Philadelphia at large, at municipal elections, for terms of ten years each, from the first Monday of January next succeeding their election. The first elected judges of said court shall be elected at the municipal election in the year one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven.

Judges to be elected at the municipal elections by electors of Philadelphia County.

It shall be unlawful for any judge of the said court to practice law during his continuance in office.

Vacancies in the office of judge of said court shall be filled by the Governor, the appointee to hold office until the first Monday of January next succeeding the first municipal election which shall occur three or more months after the happening of such vacancies.

Vacancies.

Each of the judges of said court shall receive an annual salary of fourteen thousand dollars (\$14,000), payable by the Commonwealth.

Salary.

The judges of said court shall be ex-officio justices of the peace.

Section 5. General Powers and Vacancies in Office of President Judge.—The president judge shall have power to oversee and direct the business of the court. He shall assign the other judges to the duties to be performed by them. Vacancies in the office of president judge shall be filled in the same manner as in the courts of common pleas of the first judicial district.

President judge.

Vacancies.

Section 6. Organization of Court; Temporary Appointments by the Governor.—The court created by this act shall be organized on the effective date of this act, and, pending the election of the judges thereof as hereinbefore provided, the Governor shall appoint the first judges of said court, designating one of them to be

Court to be organized on the effective date of this act.

president judge, and designating also the seniority of the other judges appointed. Said judges shall hold office from the day of appointment and commissioning by the Governor until the first Monday of January, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight.

Court to trans-
act business in
Philadelphia
County.

Section 7. Location of Court; Sessions; Supplies.—The court shall be open at all times for the transaction of business in the County of Philadelphia, at such place as may be provided by the proper authorities of the County of Philadelphia and at such other place or places in the county as may, from time to time, be found necessary by the court for the convenience of suitors or the accommodation of the public. In the hearing of any case the general public may be excluded.

Courtrooms.

It shall be the duty of the proper authorities to provide proper accommodation for the holding of the court at such times and places as the court may decide, and the expenses thereof shall be defrayed out of the county treasury.

Dockets and
supplies.

All dockets, supplies and materials required for the use of the court and its officers and employes shall be furnished by the proper authorities of the county at the cost of the county.

Judges and
employes pro-
hibited from
engaging in
political
activities.

Section 8. Judges; Officers; Clerks and Employes Prohibited from Engaging in Political Activities.—No judge, officer, clerk or employe of the court shall be a member of or delegate or alternate to any political convention. No such judge, officer, clerk or employe shall serve as a member or attend the meetings of any committee of any political party or take any active part in political management or in political campaigns. No judge, officer, clerk or employe of the court shall in any way or manner interfere with the conduct of any election, or the preparation therefor at the polling place, or with the election officers while counting the vote or returning the ballot boxes or voting machines, books and papers to the place provided by law for that purpose, or be within any polling place save only for the purpose of casting his vote as speedily as it reasonably can be done, or be within fifty feet thereof, except for purposes of ordinary travel or residence, during the period of time, beginning with one hour preceding the opening of the polls for holding such election, and ending with the time when the election officers shall have finished counting the votes and have left the polling place; nor shall any such judge, officer, clerk or employe of the court, directly or indirectly, pay, demand, solicit, collect or receive or be in any manner concerned in paying, demanding, soliciting, collecting or receiving any assessment, subscription, or contribution, whether voluntary or involuntary, intended for any political purpose whatever: Provided, however, That no judge

shall be prohibited from engaging in political activities or incurring proper expenses on his own behalf in seeking nomination and election as a judge of this court: Provided further, however, That such activities shall not commence more than three months before the primary election at which the said judge shall be a candidate for nomination.

Any person or persons who shall violate any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500), and forfeit his office.

Penal provision.

Section 9. Appointment of Officers and other Employees.—The court, by a vote of not less than three of its members, shall appoint a chief probation officer, whose annual salary shall be six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year, a secretary of the court, and as many probation officers, court officers, clerks, stenographers and other employes, including psychiatrists, psychologists and physicians, as shall be deemed necessary. The salaries and expenses of all appointees not fixed by this act shall be fixed, on recommendations made by the court, by the tax levying body of the county, and paid from the county treasury.

Court, by a vote of not less than 3 of its members, shall appoint necessary employes.

The secretary of the court shall have the custody of all records and papers of the court in an office provided by the proper authorities for such purposes.

Secretary.

Section 10. Method of Appointment and Removal of Employees.—The court as soon as practicable after the passage of this act shall establish and make public a plan classifying all court employes according to duties and qualifications, and a schedule of compensation for each class so established, which plan and schedule may be changed from time to time by the court after such public notice as the court may determine.

Classification of employes.

All probation officers, clerks, stenographers and investigators shall be appointed from eligible lists for the particular position to be filled, which lists shall be secured through open oral and written competitive tests conducted at such times and in such manner and graded as marked by such persons as the court may direct. Such tests shall have reference to education, ability, personality, character and special aptitude for work. In all written tests each candidate shall be given a number so that the person marking or grading each paper shall not be able to ascertain the identity of any candidate. The names of all candidates passing such tests shall be placed in an employment list for each class in the order of their excellence. In filling each position for which tests are required the court shall be restricted to the three persons whose names stand highest on the employment list for the particular class in which there

Tests.

is a vacancy. After any name has been three times rejected, it shall be stricken from the employment list for the particular class for which it has been rejected.

War veterans to be given additional grade.

In the final rating of all applicants, persons who were engaged in the military or naval service of the United States during any war in which the United States was engaged, and who have an honorable discharge from such service, shall be rated an additional five per centum over and above the rating fixed for the quality and character of answers in the examination, and any such person, who shall have been wounded or otherwise disabled in such service (so long as he is able to perform the work of the employment for which he is examined), shall be rated a further additional five per centum over and above the five per centum herein required, and in either case, the total per centum mark for grade thus obtained shall determine the order of standing of such persons on any list of eligibles.

Dismissal of employes after 90 days employment.

No person who has been in the employ of the court for more than ninety days shall be dismissed, demoted or reduced in pay except for just cause which shall be neither racial, religious, nor political, nor until he has been furnished with a written statement of the reasons for such proposed action, an opportunity to reply in writing to the charges preferred against him, and to be heard thereon.

Provisional appointments.

When necessary for the proper function of the court's business, but not otherwise, the court may make provisional appointments to fill any position; but no provisional appointment shall have a duration beyond ninety days; and successive provisional appointments shall not be made; the provisions of this section, except as hereinafter provided, shall not apply to the secretary of the court, nor to psychiatrists, psychologists and physicians.

Bonds by secretary and court employes.

The secretary of the court and court officers shall each give bond with approved sureties to the Commonwealth in such amount as the judges of the court shall fix, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties. The premium on such bonds shall be paid by the county.

Referees.

Section 11. Appointment, Powers and Duties of Referees.—The president judge may appoint any probation officer or other suitable employe to act as a referee and to hold office during the pleasure of the president judge.

Referees may hear cases.

The hearing of any case may be referred to such referee by the court, or the president judge may direct that all cases of a certain class or within a district to be designated by him, shall be initiated before and held in the first instance by such referee in the same manner as provided for the initiation and hearing of cases by

the court. Upon the conclusion of the hearing in each case, the referee shall transmit to the court all papers relating to the case, together with his conclusions and recommendations in writing.

A hearing before the court shall be allowed to any person or to the parent, guardian or custodian of any child whose case has been heard by the referee, upon filing with the court a request for such hearing within ten days after the receipt of written notice of the conclusions and recommendations of the referee. In case no hearing before the court is requested, the conclusions and recommendations of the referee as confirmed or modified by an order of the court, shall become the judgment of the court.

Court may hear case after a hearing by a referee.

Section 12. Records.—The records of the court shall be docketed and may be withheld from public inspection under order of the court.

Records shall be docketed.

In every case where a child is discharged on probation or otherwise from an institutional, industrial or training school, a record of such discharge shall be kept in the docket of the court.

Section 13. Seal.—The court shall have a seal on which shall appear the words "Family Court" and the word "Seal" which shall be affixed to all official papers and documents issued from said court. The seal of the court shall be in the custody of the clerk of the court and shall be kept in such place as the court may from time to time order.

The court shall have a seal.

Section 14. Jurisdiction of Family Court.—The Family Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction in the following actions and proceedings, except where specifically otherwise provided:

Jurisdiction.

(a) All those actions and proceedings affecting delinquent, neglected and dependent children, under sixteen years of age, as defined by the laws of this Commonwealth which vest the care, guidance, control, trial, placement and commitment of such children in the courts of quarter sessions of the peace and the County or Juvenile Court of Allegheny County, or the judges thereof, which courts when exercising such jurisdiction are known as juvenile courts;

Delinquent children, under 18 years of age.

(b) All actions and proceedings concerning or trials of persons, including adults charged with contributing to, or encouraging, or tending to cause, by any act of commission or omission, the delinquency, neglect or dependency of any child under sixteen years of age, or charged with any act of omission or commission with respect to any child under sixteen years of age, which act of omission or commission is a violation of any law or ordinance, and jurisdiction over which actions and proceedings is by existing law vested in the courts of

Persons charged with contributing to child delinquency.

quarter sessions of the peace, and the County or Juvenile Court of Allegheny County, which courts when exercising such jurisdiction are known as juvenile courts;

(c) All actions and proceedings relating to the appointment of guardians of the person of delinquent, neglected and dependent children under sixteen years of age then subject to the jurisdiction of the Family Court;

Support of delinquents.

(d) All actions and proceedings for the support of a delinquent, neglected or dependent child under sixteen years of age;

Actions against father for failure to support children.

(e) All actions and proceedings brought against any husband or father wherein it is charged that he has without reasonable cause separated himself from his wife or children, or from both, or has neglected to maintain his wife or children, or both; and all actions and proceedings wherein a child of full age is charged with neglecting to maintain his or her parents or grandparents, who are unable to work, and who have insufficient financial ability to maintain themselves;

Actions for desertion of children by their mother.

(f) All actions and proceedings wherein it is charged that a mother has deserted her child or children, or has neglected to maintain her child or children; or wherein it is charged that a grandfather or grandmother has neglected to maintain his or her grandchild or grandchildren;

Actions involving custody of a child.

(g) All proceedings involving the custody of any child;

Where child is a mental defective

(h) All actions and proceedings wherein it is alleged that any child under full age is suffering from epilepsy, or nervous or mental defects;

Where child has disobeyed parent's commands.

(i) All actions and proceedings against all disorderly children, and all actions and proceedings wherein it is charged that a child between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years has disobeyed his parents' command, or has been found idle in the streets, or is keeping company with dissolute or vicious persons against the lawful command of his parents or guardian;

Actions concerning the paternity of a child.

(j) All actions and proceedings concerning or trial of charges wherein the paternity of any child alleged to have been born out of lawful wedlock is involved, and orders and sentences to provide for the support and disposition of such child;

Actions for the adoption of a child.

(k) All proceedings for the adoption of any child under full age, where the adopting parent or the child to be adopted is a resident of the County of Philadelphia, and for such purposes to exercise all the powers and authority now vested by law in the orphans' court in such cases. The jurisdiction of the court in such proceedings shall be concurrent with the orphans' court;

(l) All actions and proceedings concerning, or trial of charges brought against all persons, whether minors or adults, accused of disorderly street-walking;

Actions for disorderly street-walking.

(m) Any prosecution of any minor for any criminal offense under the laws of this Commonwealth. The jurisdiction of the courts in such cases shall be exclusive, except that, in any such case where the child is over sixteen years of age, the court may certify such case to the court of quarter sessions of the peace, or the court of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery, as the case may require.

Criminal offenses by a minor.

Section 15. Transfer of Records and Pending Actions from Other Courts.—All books, records, indices, documents and papers in the possession of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, and Orphans' Court of Philadelphia County, or the clerks thereof, and all actions and matters pending in said courts shall, on the date when this act becomes effective, be transferred to the court created by this act to the extent that such actions and matters and the books, records, indices, documents and papers connected therewith are within the jurisdiction of the Family Court as herein established.

Records of Municipal Court shall be transferred to the Family Court.

The Family Court is hereby authorized to hear, determine and to dispose of the actions and matters so transferred from the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, Courts of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, and Orphans' Court and shall have full power and authority to enforce any and all orders, decrees, judgments or sentences heretofore entered or imposed in any actions or matters transferred from said courts, with the same force and effect as if such actions had been originally instituted in the Family Court.

The Family Court is empowered to hear cases transferred from the Municipal Court.

Section 16. Powers of Judges as Committing Magistrates in Juvenile Cases.—Any judge of the Family Court shall have power to inquire under oath or affirmation of all crimes, misdemeanors and offenses whatsoever against the laws of the Commonwealth wherein a child under the age of sixteen years is charged, and to take in the name of the Commonwealth any recognizance, obligation or bail allowed to be taken by any magistrate, or by any judge of the court of quarter sessions. A judge may continue the recognizances, obligations or bail so taken, or such as may be returned to the Family Court by a magistrate, or by any judge of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace, or Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery. A judge may continue the recognizances,* obligations or bail so taken, or such as may be returned to the Family Court

Judge of Family Court has power to inquire of crimes in which child, under 16, is involved.

* "reorganzances" in the original.

by a magistrate, and may inquire into, hear and determine all complaints founded thereon. If such charge is not triable in the Family Court, the judge shall return such charge to the court of quarter sessions oroyer and terminator having jurisdiction.

Probation officers.

Section 17. Powers and Duties of Probation Department.—The chief probation officer, the probation officers and other employes assigned to serve under the supervision of the chief probation officer shall constitute the probation department of the court.

Chief probation officer.

The chief probation officer, under the direction of the court, shall have charge of the work of the probation department, and shall supervise the work of all probation officers and other employes assigned to such work.

Duties of probation department.

The probation department shall make investigations before, during and after the filing of any petition or the entry of any action or proceeding as any judge of the court may direct. It shall keep a written record of all such investigations and submit the same as the judge may direct. It shall keep itself informed concerning the conduct and condition of each person on probation, and shall report thereon as the court may direct. Each probation officer shall use all suitable ways and means to aid persons on probation to bring about an improvement in their conduct and condition.

Department shall assume work of Municipal Court's department.

The probation department shall take over all the probation work of the probation officers of the Municipal Court of Philadelphia in all cases of delinquent, neglected and dependent children placed under the supervision and control of probation officers by said court, with the same powers, authority and duties as if said children had been placed on probation under the authority of this act.

Records.

The probation department shall keep full records of its work, and perform such other duties as the court may direct.

Probation officers to have the powers of constables.

Probation officers shall, for the purposes of this act, have all the powers of constables. All other provisions of the laws of the Commonwealth, relating to probation under the supervision of the courts acting as juvenile courts, so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with this act, shall apply to cases coming within the provisions of this act.

Secretary to set up and maintain a department of accounts.

Section 18. Department of Accounts.—The secretary of the court, under the direction of the court, shall set up and maintain a department of accounts, in which there shall be kept the proper and necessary books and records of all receipts and disbursements. Moneys due from or for persons under the jurisdiction of the court, shall be paid into this department, and the secretary shall make periodical statements to the court, as the court shall direct. The books of account in this depart-

ment shall be audited annually by the controller of the City of Philadelphia.

Section 19. Service of Process and Orders.—Service of all orders of the court in process and actions and proceedings shall be made personally by the delivery of attested copies thereof to the persons summoned or affected; but if a judge is satisfied that it is impracticable personally to serve such process or order, he may order service by registered mail, with a return receipt requested, addressed to the last known address or by publication thereof, or by both, as he may direct. It shall be sufficient to confer jurisdiction if service is effected, as herein provided, before the time fixed by the court in the order or process for the return thereof.

Manner of service of process.

Service of orders or any process required by this act may be made by any suitable person under the direction of the court. The judge may authorize the payment of necessary traveling expenses incurred by any person ordered to appear at the hearing of any case coming within the provisions of this act, and such expenses, when approved by a judge, shall be payable by the county.

If any person so served with an order or process shall fail to appear, he may be proceeded against for contempt of court.

Section 20. Special and General Procedures; Returns by Magistrates.—In addition to the methods and procedures provided by existing law, proceedings in said court may be initiated before any judge of said court upon information, verified under oath by any person or upon the court's own motion. A reasonable opportunity to appear shall be afforded any defendant.

Proceedings may be initiated upon information, verified under oath of any person.

The court may issue a warrant for arrest or other process to secure or compel the attendance of any defendant. The court shall have the same power and authority over the disposition of actions or proceedings affecting children under sixteen years of age as is conferred by law with respect to delinquent, neglected and dependent children, and in the case of adults the power to impose sentence as the law provides, or to suspend sentence and place any defendant on probation.

Court may issue a warrant for arrest to secure attendance of any defendant.

In desertion and nonsupport cases and in juvenile cases there shall be no preliminary hearings, but the person accused or the children involved shall immediately be brought before the court for trial or hearing, as the court may direct.

Section 21. Control of Court over Committed Children.—The commitment by the court of a child under the age of sixteen years to a house of refuge or an industrial or training school or county institution or school maintained for such purposes shall not deprive the court of jurisdiction to release and discharge such child

Court retains control over children after their commitment to institution.

therefrom whenever it shall appear to the court, after hearing, that the interests of the child will be served by his release or discharge or parole under the supervision of a probation officer.

Court, at any time, may cause a mental defective to be examined.

Section 22. Examination and Treatment of Persons Found to Be Mentally Defective or in Need of Medical Care.—The court may in its discretion, either before or after a hearing, cause any person coming within its jurisdiction to be examined by a physician, or psychiatrist, appointed or designated for the purpose by the court. If it shall appear to the court that any such person is mentally defective or mentally disordered, it may cause such person to be examined by two qualified psychiatrists or two physicians, or one of each, and on the written statement of such examiners that such person is mentally defective or mentally disordered, the court may commit such person to an appropriate institution authorized by law to receive and care for mentally defective or mentally disordered persons. In any such case the parents, guardian or custodian of such person shall be given due notice of any proceedings hereunder.

Expenses of examinations.

The expenses of any such examination, when approved by a judge of the court, shall be paid out of the county treasury.

Section 23. Proceedings for the Support of Dependents.—In the case of an adult found guilty of desertion, abandonment or failure to provide subsistence or care for any person for whose maintenance or care such adult is legally responsible, the court may inquire into and determine the ability of such adult to provide for the maintenance or care of such person and may direct when, how and where money for such maintenance or care shall be paid; and in the event that such adult shall wilfully, and without just excuse, fail or refuse to pay the same in accordance with the court's order, said person shall be dealt with by the court in accordance with the provisions of law relating to desertion and failure to provide subsistence, or such adult may be proceeded against as for contempt of court.

May hear cases without a jury.

Section 24. Jury Trials.—The court shall hear and determine all cases affecting children under sixteen years of age arising under the provisions of this act and the laws of the Commonwealth relating to delinquent, neglected and dependent children, without a jury, except where otherwise provided by law.

If a person coming before the court is charged with an offense for which he is entitled to a trial by jury, the case shall be tried before a jury under such rules as the court may promulgate, but, except as modified by its own rules, the practice and procedure in criminal

actions shall be the same in the Family Court as in similar actions prosecuted in the court of quarter sessions of the peace, and court of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery.

Section 25. Jurors.—It shall be the duty of the proper officers of the County of Philadelphia to provide such jurors for service in the Family Court as may, from time to time, be required by order of the president judge of the Family Court. The jurors shall be summoned in the same manner as provided by law for the courts of quarter sessions of the peace. They shall receive the same compensation and be subject to the same duties and liabilities as jurors summoned to serve in other courts of the county.

Jurors shall be summoned as provided by law.

Section 26. Review of Decisions by Court En Banc.—Any person aggrieved by the final decision of any judge of said court shall have the right, within ten days after such decision has been rendered, to ask for a review thereof before a court en banc, composed of three judges of said court, which court en banc shall, after argument, render its decision, which shall become the decision of the court.

Parties may appeal from decision of any judge to the court en banc.

Section 27. Fees.—The fees to be charged for the business of the court shall be the same as the fees charged for similar services by law by the various county officers of the County of Philadelphia.

Fees.

All fees and other sums of money received by any clerk or employe of the court shall be paid over to the county treasury, except moneys paid in pursuance of an order of the court in—(a) proceedings against a husband, father, adult child, mother, grandfather or grandmother wherein it is charged that he or she has without reasonable cause deserted his or her dependents or failed to support any dependents; or (b) in a proceeding for the custody of children. In all such cases the moneys shall be disbursed to the person or persons entitled as herein above provided.

Fees shall be paid over to the county treasurer.

Section 28. Costs.—Any judge of the court shall have power upon the disposition of any action or proceeding to make an order disposing of the costs, including fees of magistrates, constables, sheriffs and witnesses, and other costs, and may impose such costs on the County of Philadelphia or on the complainant, if after hearing it be found that the complaint was made without proper cause, or upon the defendant or parent or parents or custodian of a child, if after hearing, it be found, in the case of parents, that they were at fault and are of ability to pay; but all such costs shall, after hearing and order in the case, be immediately chargeable to and paid by the county: Provided, That the county shall be liable only for the cost of such witnesses as the proba-

Judges shall have the power to dispose of the costs.

tion officer shall certify were* subpoenaed by his order, and were* in attendance at, or necessary to, the trial of the case, or such witnesses as the court shall certify were in attendance and necessary to such trials.

Parties may appeal to Supreme or Superior Court.

Section 29. Appeals.—All parties believing themselves aggrieved by the decision of the Family Court may remove their case by appeal to the Supreme or Superior Court, as the case may be, in accordance with the practice and procedure applicable to other courts of said county.

Court may adopt rules.

Section 30. Court Rules and Regulations.—The court shall have power to adopt such rules of procedure, and rules and regulations prescribing the qualifications of employes and personnel, for the conduct of officers and employes, and for the conduct of its business and the proceedings before it, and all rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act, as it shall deem proper.

Constitutional provision.

Section 31. Constitutionality.—The provisions of this act are severable, and if any of its provisions are declared unconstitutional, the decision so holding shall not be construed as impairing any other provision of this act. It is hereby declared as the legislative intent that this act would have been adopted had such unconstitutional provisions not been included therein.

When effective.

Section 32. Effective Date.—This act shall become effective immediately upon final enactment.

Section 33. Repeals.—All other acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

* "where" in the original.

APPROVED—The 28th day of April, A. D. 1937.

GEORGE H. EARLE

No. 108

AN ACT

Providing for the appointment and filling of vacancies in the offices of members of the board of revision of taxes in counties of the first class.

Board of revision of taxes in counties of the first class.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the board of revision of taxes in counties of the first class shall hereafter be appointed as follows:

One of the two members required to be attorneys at law, the one member required to be a construction engineer, and the one member required to be a real estate appraiser, shall be appointed by the county treasurer of the county.

One of the two members required to be attorneys at law, the one member required to be a civil engineer,