

give the time and place of a public meeting of a committee, appointed by the township commissioners or an open meeting of the township commissioners, at which committee or commissioners meeting, bids shall be publicly opened and read, but the contract not awarded. If, through lack of a quorum or other reason, no meeting shall be held at such time and place, notice of the same kind shall be repeated once at least six days before the meeting of the subsequent time and place fixed, and the foregoing provisions as to bids shall apply. The same course shall be pursued until a meeting of a committee or the commissioners shall actually be held for receiving and opening bids. At [the first] a subsequent meeting of the township commissioners, after the opening of the bids, the contract shall be awarded. Any contract made in violation of the provisions hereof shall be void. But nothing herein contained shall prevent the making of contracts for governmental services for a period exceeding one year, but any contract so made shall be executory only for the amounts agreed to be paid for such services to be rendered in succeeding fiscal years: Provided, That if, prior to the letting of any contract, taxpayers of the township, whose property valuation as assessed for taxable purposes within the township shall amount to sixty per centum or over of the total property valuation as assessed for taxable purposes within the township, shall sign and file, with the township secretary of the board, a written protest against such contemplated contract, then such contract shall not be let.

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APPROVED—The 28th day of April, A. D. 1961.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE

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No. 70

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 22, 1907 (P. L. 31), entitled "An act to provide for the assignment of counsel in murder cases, and for the allowance of expenses and compensation in such cases," extending the benefits of the act.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows: Murder cases.

Section 1. Section 1, act of March 22, 1907 (P. L. 31), entitled "An act to provide for the assignment of counsel in murder cases, and for the allowance of expenses and compensation in such cases," amended November 10, 1959 (P. L. 1401), is amended to read:

Section 1, act of March 22, 1907, P. L. 31, amended November 10, 1959, P. L. 1401, further amended.

Assignment of
counsel to desti-
tute person.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That whenever any person, [being under indictment,] charged with murder, shall make and file with the clerk of the court of quarter sessions an affidavit, setting forth that he or she is wholly destitute of means to employ counsel and prepare for his or her defense, the judge sitting in the court of oyer and terminer, to whom such affidavit is presented, shall assign to such person counsel, not exceeding two, to represent and defend such person at the trial of the case. Such appointed counsel may petition the court, after their appointment and their examination of the matters at issue, to secure a rule to show cause why the court should not permit a special investigator or investigators to assist them in the preparation of the case, or such specialists as justice of the case may require for the proper defense of their clients, and following a hearing, at which time such court appointed counsel shall sustain their request by evidence satisfactory to the court, the court shall grant such special investigator or investigators or expert witness or witnesses; and such expert assistance to such appointed counsel shall be paid by the county in which the said trial is being held upon approval by the court of such charges. When services are rendered by counsel, in pursuance of such assignment, the judge sitting at the trial of the case shall allow such counsel all personal and incidental expenses, upon a sworn statement thereof being filed with the clerk of the court of quarter sessions, and also reasonable compensation for services rendered, not exceeding five hundred dollars for each counsel; which allowance of expenses and compensation shall be a charge upon the county in which the indictment in the action is found, to be paid by the county treasurer, or, where the city and county are coextensive, by the city treasurer, upon the certificate of the judge presiding at the trial of the case: Provided, That in order to be entitled to such expenses and compensation, counsel so assigned must file with the judge, sitting at the trial of the case, an affidavit that he has not, directly or indirectly, received, nor entered into a contract to receive, any compensation for such services from any source other than herein provided.

Investigators.

Expenses and
compensation.

By whom
payable.

Proviso.

Affidavit.

Act effective
immediately.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED—The 28th day of April, A. D. 1961.

DAVID L. LAWRENCE