



Housing Act 1957

1957 CHAPTER 56

PART V

PROVISION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Special provisions for rural districts

116 Responsibility of county councils in respect of housing conditions in rural districts

- (1) It shall be the duty of the council of every county, as respects each rural district within the county, to have constant regard to housing conditions in the district, to the extent to which overcrowding or other unsatisfactory conditions exist and the sufficiency of the steps which the council of the district have taken, or are proposing to take, to remedy those conditions and to provide further housing accommodation.
- (2) The council of every rural district shall at such intervals, not being in any case less than one year, as the county council may direct, furnish to that council such information with regard to the matters mentioned in the foregoing subsection as the county council may reasonably require for the purposes of enabling them to carry out their duties thereunder.

117 Agreements by county council for assisting rural district councils in provision of accommodation

- (1) The council of any county may, for the purpose of assisting the council of any rural district within the county in the performance of their duties under this Part of this Act, agree with the district council for the exercise by the county council of all or any of the powers of the district council under this Part of this Act.
- (2) An agreement made under this section may contain such provisions with regard to the expenses to be incurred by the county council, including the raising of loans to meet those expenses, and with regard to the vesting in the district council of any houses built

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by the county council under the agreement and such other incidental or consequential provisions as the councils think proper.

118 Minister's power to assist rural district councils by acquiring land and erecting houses

- (1) With a view to assisting rural district councils in the preparation and carrying out of schemes for the provision of dwelling accommodation in the agricultural parishes of their districts to meet the needs of agricultural workers and persons whose incomes are, in the opinion of the council concerned, such that they would not ordinarily pay rents in excess of those paid by agricultural workers in the council's district, the Minister, if he is requested by any such council so to do and is satisfied—
- (a) that their financial resources are insufficient, and
 - (b) that the council of the county is unwilling to give assistance to them under the last foregoing section,
- may, with the consent of the Treasury, acquire land and erect houses on behalf and at the expense of that council, and for that purpose may exercise any powers which under this Act the council may exercise in regard to the acquisition of land and the erection of houses, or may make arrangements with any other Government department for the exercise by that Department of any of those powers which, in his opinion, could more conveniently be so exercised.
- (2) For the purposes of this section a house shall be deemed to be situated in an agricultural parish if—
- (a) the net annual value of the agricultural land in the parish in which the house is situate as appearing in the valuation list in force on the first day of April, nineteen hundred and twenty-nine, exceeded 25 per cent. of the total net annual value of that parish as appearing in the said list, and
 - (b) the population of the parish, according to the latest census return of the Registrar-General, is less than fifty persons per hundred acres.
- (3) For the purposes of the last foregoing subsection the expression " agricultural land " has the meaning assigned to it by subsection (2) of section two of the Rating and Valuation (Apportionment) Act, 1928, and in the case of any hereditament occupied by or on behalf of the Crown for public purposes, the value directed by subsection (3) of section sixty-four of the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, to be entered in the valuation list as respects the rateable value of that hereditament shall be taken as being in the case of agricultural land fifty per cent. of the net annual value of the hereditament and in any other case the net annual value thereof.
- (4) Any question whether a parish is or is not an agricultural parish within the meaning of this section shall be determined by the Minister whose decision shall be final.