

health, he shall immediately investigate the matter and take all proper steps for the restriction or suppression of such disease or diseases; and the said county commissioners may incur and pay, as other county expenses are paid, the necessary and legitimate expenses thereof; he shall promptly notify the secretary of the State board of health of the existence of any epidemic or unusual sickness or mortality that may come to his knowledge within his own sanitary jurisdiction or contiguous thereto; and when thus informed, it shall be the duty of the secretary of the State board of health to co-operate with and aid the local health authorities in making scientific and practical investigation into the cause or causes of any existing disease, and in devising the most efficient means for its restriction or suppression, or for the exclusion of any threatened disease; and to this end he may exercise all the powers of the State board of health.

Infectious Diseases—Small-Pox.

1882, ch. 155, sec. 1.

15. When the health authority of any city or town, or any justice of the peace for any county, is of opinion, on the certificate of a qualified medical practitioner, that the cleansing and disinfecting of any house or part thereof, and of articles therein likely to retain infection, would tend to prevent or check infectious diseases, it shall be the duty of such authority or justice of the peace to give notice in writing to the owner or occupier of such house, or part thereof, requiring him or her to cleanse and disinfect such house, or part thereof, and articles, within a time specified in such notice; and if the person to whom notice is so given fails to comply therewith, he or she shall be liable to a penalty of not less than five dollars and not exceeding ten dollars for every day during which he or she continues to make default; and the health authority or justice of the peace, as the case may be, shall cause such house or part thereof, and articles, to be cleansed and disinfecting, and may recover the expenses incurred from the owner or occupier in default, as other fines and forfeitures are recoverable; provided, that where the owner or occupier of any such house or part thereof is, from poverty or otherwise, unable, in the opinion of such health authority or justice of the peace, effectually to carry out the requirements of this section, such authority or justice of