

[No. 125, A.]

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CHAPTER 319.

An act to create a bureau of labor statistics.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, is hereby authorized and directed to appoint, as soon after the passage of this act as may be, and thereafter biennially, on the first Monday in the month of February, a suitable person to act as commissioner, who shall constitute a bureau of labor statistics, with headquarters at the capitol.

Bureau of labor statistics.

SECTION 2. The duties of such bureau shall be to collect, assort, systematize and present, in biennial reports to the legislature, on or before the first day of February, once in every two years, statistical details relating to all departments of labor in the state, especially in its relations to the commercial, industrial, social, educational and sanitary condition of the laboring classes; to visit and examine factories, and all other establishments where people are employed at any kind of labor; and for this purpose the commissioner shall have power to enter the same and examine the methods of protection from accidents and the means of escape from fire, and make a record thereof. He shall see to it that all laws regulating the employment of children, minors and women, and all laws established for the protection of the health and the lives of operatives in workshops and factories are enforced; and he shall have power to prosecute offenders against the same in any court of competent jurisdiction. He shall, in his biennial report every two years, give an account of all violations of the above named laws, which he has observed, and his proceedings under the same, together with such remarks, suggestions and recommendations as he may deem necessary.

Duties of bureau.

SECTION 3. All employers of labor, shall, upon request, permit the commissioner of the bureau to enter his factory or workshop and make to said bureau of labor statistics, such reports and returns as the said bureau may require for the purpose of compiling such labor statistics; such reports and returns to be verified by the owner or business manager of such concern, and the said bureau, may, for such purpose, prescribe blank

Commissioner to be permitted to enter.

forms, which shall be furnished by the secretary of state; and every employer who shall refuse to permit the commissioner of the bureau to enter his factory or workshop, or who shall fail to make such report or return, within the time prescribed therefor, shall forfeit the sum of ten dollars (\$10) for each and every day the same shall be delayed. All such forfeits shall be sued for in the name of the state of Wisconsin, and shall be paid into the school fund. The biennial report of the commissioner of labor statistics, provided for by section 2 of this act, shall be printed and distributed in the same manner and under the same regulations as the reports of the executive officers of the state.

Power to issue
subpœnas.

SECTION 4. The commissioner of the bureau shall have power to issue subpœnas, administer oaths and take testimony, in all matters relating to the duties herein required of said bureau, such testimony to be taken in some suitable place in the vicinity to which such testimony is applicable. Witnesses subpœnaed and testifying before the commissioner, shall be paid the same fees as witnesses before a circuit court, such payment to be made from the contingent fund of the bureau.

Compensation.

SECTION 5. The compensation of said bureau shall be fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500) annual salary for the commissioner, and a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) per annum shall be allowed for his necessary traveling and contingent expenses, which shall include the printing of reports and all other expenses connected with the bureau.

SECTION 6. There is hereby annually appropriated out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to carry out the provisions of this act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 3, 1883.