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CHAPTER 434.

AN ACT to create four free employment offices in the state to be located by a commission, providing for the appointment of a superintendent and fixing his salary, licensing private employment agencies, fixing penalties for a violation of its provisions and making an appropriation therefor, and repealing chapter 420 of the laws of Wisconsin for the year 1901.

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

Commission; Wisconsin Free Employment Offices. SECTION 1. There is hereby created not more than four free employment offices in the state, to be located in such cities or places as may be selected or named by a commission consisting of the governor, secretary of state and the attorney general, for the purpose of receiving applications of persons seeking employment, and applications of persons seeking to employ labor. Each such office shall be designated and known as Wisconsin Free Employment Office. The said offices shall be so located in such parts of the state by said commission as may best serve the interests of the people of the state.

Appointment of superintendents; salaries. SECTION 2. The commissioner of labor and industrial statistics shall recommend immediately after the passage of this act, and the governor shall appoint a superintendent for each of the offices created by section 1 of this act and who shall devote his time to the duties of his office. The tenure of such appointment shall be for two years, unless sooner removed for cause. The salary of each superintendent shall be fixed by said commission, not, however, to exceed twelve hundred dollars per annum, which sum, together with proper amounts for defraying the necessary costs of the equipping, running and maintaining the respective offices, rent for such offices not to exceed five hundred dollars per annum, shall be paid out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Duty of; sign for office; registration of applicants. SECTION 3. The superintendent of each such free employment office shall open an office in such city as shall have been determined by the above commission, and in such locality of said city as both the commissioner of labor and superintendent of said employment office may select, as being most appropriate for the purpose intended; provided, that said employment office shall be occupied in conjunction with the bureau of labor and industrial statistics when such bureau has an office in any of said cities, and in case said bureau has no office in any of said cities, then in that case the city council wherein said free employment office is established shall furnish and equip an office for said employment bureau, either in conjunction with a department of said city or separately without cost to the state, such office to be provided with a sufficient number of rooms or apartments to enable him to provide, and he shall so provide, a separate room or apartment for the use of women registering for situations or help. Upon the outside of each such office, in position and manner to secure the fullest public attention, shall be placed a sign which shall read in the English language, "Wisconsin Free Employment Office," and the same shall appear either upon the outside windows or upon signs in such other languages as the location of such office shall render advisable. The superintendent of each such free employment office shall receive and record in books kept for that purpose names of all persons applying for employment or help, designating opposite the name and address of each applicant, the character of employment or help desired. Separate registers for applicants for employment shall be kept, showing the age, sex, nativity, trade or occupation of each applicant, the cause and duration of non-employment, whether married or single, the number of dependent children, together with such other facts as may be required by the bureau of labor and industrial statistics to be used by said bureau; provided, that no such special registers shall be open to public inspection at any time, and that such statistical and sociological data as the bureau of labor may require shall be held in confidence by said bureau, and so published as not to reveal the identity of any applicant. And provided, further, that any applicant who shall decline to answer the questions contained in special register shall not thereby forfeit any right to any employment the office might secure.

Weekly report of superintendent; combination lists. SECTION 4. Each superintendent shall report on Thursday of each

week to the state bureau of labor and industrial statistics the number of applications for positions and for help received during the preceding week, also those unfilled applications remaining on the books at the beginning of the week. Such lists shall not contain the names or addresses of any applicant, but shall show the number of situations desired and the number of persons wanted at each specified trade or occupation. It shall also show the number and character of the positions secured during the preceding week. Upon receipt of these lists and not later than Saturday of each week, the commissioner of the said bureau of labor and industrial statistics shall cause to be printed a sheet showing separately and in combination the lists received from all such free employment offices; and he shall cause a sufficient number of such sheets to be printed to enable him to mail, and he shall so mail, on Saturday of each week, two of said sheets to each superintendent of a free employment office, one to be filed by said superintendent and one to be conspicuously posted in each such office. A copy of such sheet shall also be mailed on each Saturday by the commissioner of the state bureau of labor and industrial statistics to the state inspector of factories. It is hereby made the duty of said factory inspector to do all he reasonably can to assist in securing situations for such applicants for work, to secure for the free employment offices the co-operation of the employers of labor in factories, to immediately notify the superintendent of free employment offices of any and all vacancies or opportunities of employment that shall come to his notice.

Duty of superintendent as to manufacturers. SECTION 5. It shall be the duty of each such superintendent of a free employment office to immediately put himself in communication with the principal manufacturers, merchants and other employers of labor, and to use all diligence in securing the co-operation of the said employers of labor, with the purposes and objects of such employment offices.

Annual report. SECTION 6. It shall be the duty of each such superintendent to make a report to the state bureau of labor and industrial statistics annually, not later than December first of each year, concerning the work of his office for the year ending October first of the same year, together with a statement of the expenses of the same, and such reports shall be published by the said bureau of labor and industrial statistics annually. Each such superintendent shall also perform

such other duties in the collection of statistics of labor, as the commissioners of the bureau of labor and industrial statistics may require.

No fee to be charged applicant; penalty for accepting. SECTION 7. No fee or compensation shall be charged or received, directly or indirectly, from any person or corporation applying for employment or help through said free employment offices; and any superintendent or clerk who shall accept, directly or indirectly, any fee or compensation from any applicant, or from his or her representative, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than fifty dollars and imprisoned in the county jail not more than thirty days.

Term "applicant" defined. SECTION 8. The term "applicant for employment" as used in this act shall be construed to mean any person seeking work of any lawful character, and "applicant for help" shall mean any person or persons seeking help in any legitimate enterprise. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the meaning of the term "work" to manual occupation, but it shall include professional service, and any and all other legitimate services.

License for other employment agencies. SECTION 9. No person, firm or corporation where a free employment office is located shall open, operate or maintain a private employment agency for hire or where a fee is charged to either applicants for employment or for help, without first having obtained a license from the secretary of state, for which license he shall pay one hundred dollars per annum; and no such private agent shall print, publish, or cause to be printed or published, or paint on any sign, window or newspaper publication, a name similar to that of the Wisconsin free employment offices. And any person, firm or corporation violating the provisions of this act, or any part thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction such person, firm or, if a corporation, all the officers thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars.

Dismissal of superintendent, when. SECTION 10. Whenever, in the opinion of the commissioner of the bureau of labor and industrial statistics, the superintendent of any free employment office is not duly diligent in the performance of his duties,

he may summon such superintendent to appear before him to show cause why he should not be recommended to the governor for removal, and unless such cause is clearly shown the said commissioner may so recommend. In considering such a case, a low percentage of positions secured to applicants for situations and help registered, lack of intelligent interest in the work, or a general inaptitude or inefficiency may be deemed by said commissioner sufficient to recommend a removal. And if, in the opinion of the governor, such lack of efficiency cannot be remedied by reproof and discipline, he shall remove such person from office as recommended by said commissioner; provided that the governor may at any time remove any superintendent or clerk for cause.

Supplies and stationery. SECTION 11. All such printing, blanks, bank books, stationery and postage as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the offices herein created shall be furnished by the secretary of state upon requisition for the same made by the commissioner of the bureau of labor and industrial statistics.

SECTION 12. Chapter 420 of the laws of Wisconsin for the year 1901 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved May 22, 1903.