

CHAPTER 192

AN ACT to create 20.163 and 44.14 of the statutes, relating to historical markers and a historical markers commission, and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. 20.163 of the statutes is created to read:

20.163 HISTORICAL MARKERS COMMISSION. There is appropriated from the general fund to the historical markers commission all money received by it and paid into the state treasury as provided by s. 44.14 (3).

SECTION 2. 44.14 of the statutes is created to read:

44.14 HISTORICAL MARKERS COMMISSION. (1) PURPOSES. It is declared to be in the public interest to stimulate interest in and knowledge of the state by marking sites of special historical, archaeological, geological or legendary significance, and maintaining and developing such sites approximately so as to preserve their individual characteristics. It is the purpose of this section to accomplish such marking, maintenance and development. To that end, there is created a historical markers commission, consisting of the director of the state historical society who shall be secretary, the state superintendent of public instruction, the chairman of the state highway commission, the conservation director and the director of regional planning. In addition to any that may be specifically enumerated, the commission shall have all powers necessary to perform its duties. It shall meet in Madison in January each year, when it shall elect a chairman, and may hold special meetings at any time or place on call of the chairman or secretary. A member may be represented at such meetings by a representative whom he shall designate in writing.

(2) MARKING SYSTEM. The commission shall plan, develop and publicize a uniform official system of marking for state historical, archaeological, geological and legendary sites. Such sites shall be marked with markers of standard design, selected and approved by the commission, which shall be displayed at each site with an inscription setting forth the facts of particular interest. Such standard design markers shall not be used to mark sites other than those designated by the commission, or other sites approved by it in writing, and then subject to such conditions as the commission may deem appropriate. The commission may cause the removal of any such markers not so used.

(3) DONATIONS. The commission may accept gifts, appropriations and bequests made to it for the purposes of this section and use them as far as practicable in accordance with the wishes of the donor. All money so received shall promptly be paid into the state treasury and be paid out on order of the commission. The expenditures thereof shall be audited and paid as other disbursements by the state treasury are audited and paid. The commission may accept the aid, support and co-operation of county, city, village or town agencies, or private agencies or persons in executing its projects. All state boards, commissions, departments and institutions are directed to co-operate with it in the performance of its duties. Applicable laws shall be liberally construed in favor of such co-operation.

Approved May 29, 1953.
