

[No. 211, S.]

[Published March 16, 1878.]

CHAPTER 214.

AN ACT to amend sections thirty-one and thirty-two of chapter fifty-six, of the general laws of 1870, entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation and government of fire and inland navigation insurance companies."

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

Amended.

Fees.

SECTION 1. Section thirty-one of chapter fifty-six of the general laws of 1870, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 31. There shall be paid by every company, association, person or persons, or agent, to whom this act shall apply, the following fees: For filing the declaration or certified copy of charter herein required, the sum of twenty-five dollars; for filing the annual statement required, twenty-five dollars; for each certificate of authority to agents of all companies doing business within this state, one dollar; for every copy of paper filed in his office, fifteen cents per folio, and for affixing the seal of said office and certifying to the same, fifty cents. In case two or more companies shall combine to effect insurance under a joint policy or policies, each and every company thus combining shall pay the fees provided herein, the same as if each and every one wrote separate policy or policies.

Amended.

Department of insurance created.

SECTION 2. Section thirty-two of chapter thirty-six of the general laws of 1870, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 32. For the purpose of carrying into effect a more thorough supervision and examination of the affairs of all insurance companies doing business in this state, there is hereby established a distinct department of insurance within ten days after the passage and publication of this act. The governor by and with the consent of the senate, shall appoint some person who is suitably qualified, a commissioner of insurance, who shall hold his office for the term of two years from the first Monday of April in the year in which he is or shall hereafter be appointed, and until his successor shall be appointed and qualified, unless sooner removed for cause by the governor. Before entering upon his duties, such commissioner of insurance shall take and subscribe an oath of office to be filed with the secretary of state, and he shall also execute a bond to the state of Wisconsin for the penal

sum of twenty thousand dollars, with two or more sufficient sureties, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, which bond when approved by the governor, shall be deposited with the state treasurer. Said commissioner of insurance shall have an official seal, and shall employ such clerical and other assistance as he shall deem necessary, and at such expense as he shall determine; to maintain and keep such department, and to enable him to take charge of and conduct, or cause to be conducted, all examinations of the business and affairs of such insurance companies that are or may be required by law, and generally to exercise such supervision and control over insurance companies doing business in this state as the law may require: *provided*, that the whole amount of expenses of such department, in each year, shall not exceed the amount of fees paid by insurance companies during such year: *and provided*, that such expenses, including compensation of commissioner, in no one year shall exceed the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars: *and provided further*, that the amount of all fees over and above thirty-five hundred dollars, received from fire and life insurance companies, by virtue of any existing law of this state, shall be paid over by the commissioner of insurance to the state treasurer, and go into the general fund. A statement of the receipts and disbursements of his office shall be included in the annual report of said commissioner of insurance.

SECTION 3. Section thirty of chapter fifty-six of the general laws of 1870, is hereby amended so as to read as follows: Section 30. Whenever examinations shall

Amended.

be made of any insurance company by the commissioner of insurance, personally, or by one or more of the clerks of said department, no charge shall be made on such examination but for necessary traveling and other actual expenses, and all charges for making examinations of any insurance company, and all charges against any company by an attorney or appraiser of this department shall be presented in the form of an itemized bill, which shall first be approved by the said commissioner and then audited by the secretary of state, and paid on his warrant, drawn in the usual manner upon the state treasurer, to the person or persons making such examination; and the company examined, on receiving a certified copy of said bill of charges, as audited, and paid by the secretary of state, shall repay the amount of the same to the state treasurer to replace the money drawn out, as above provided for, and no com-

Examination of companies.

pany examined shall, either directly or indirectly, pay by way of gift, gratuity or otherwise, any other or further sum to said commissioner or examiners for services, extra services, or for purposes of legislation or on any other pretense whatever. Said commissioner, examiner, or any officer, clerk or other employe, of any insurance company, violating the provisions of this section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Said commissioner of insurance, in his discretion, shall not be required to make an examination of such companies, organized outside of this state, in states where, under the laws thereof, they are similarly supervised by and under the proper officer, as in such laws provided; and such officer shall furnish, whenever required to do so by the commissioner of insurance, a certificate and statement exhibiting the solvency of such company. The secretary of state shall deliver to the commissioner of insurance all books, records and papers in his office relating to the subject of insurance to be kept and preserved by said commissioner in his office.

Stationery and office accommodations.

SECTION 4. The superintendent of public property is hereby directed to provide the commissioner of insurance with suitable accommodations in the capitol, for office purposes, and also to furnish him such stationery as he may need in the performance of his duties, and he shall be furnished with necessary postage and blanks in the same manner as other state officers are furnished.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect from and after its passage and publication.

Approved March 12, 1878.

[No. 205, S.]

[Published March 18, 1878.]

CHAPTER 215.

AN ACT relating to the charter of the city of Portage, and amendatory of chapter one hundred and twenty-two of the laws of Wisconsin of 1876.

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

Amendment.

SECTION 1. Section seven of chapter three, of chapter one hundred and twenty-two of the laws of Wisconsin of 1876, is hereby amended, by inserting after the word "clerk," the word "treasurer."