

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved June 24, 1911.

No. 940, A.]

[Published June 26, 1911.]

CHAPTER 441.

AN ACT to amend section 1636—4 of the statutes, relating to stairways and fire-escapes on buildings.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1636—4 of the statutes is amended to read: Section 1636—4. 1. Every person or corporation, owning, occupying or controlling any building now or hereafter used, in whole or in part, as a public building, public or private institution, * * * public hall, place of assemblage or place of public resort or opera house two stories in height in which one hundred and fifty people or more are permitted to assemble, shall be provided with two good substantial stairways, one of which shall be located on the outside of such building and be at least four feet in width, leading from a level with the second story floor to the ground, providing, that such building is not fireproof. If any such building is fireproof, it shall be provided with such means of egress as shall be approved by the commissioner of labor or factory inspector.

2. There shall be provided and kept connected with every hotel, inn, schoolhouse or church, and every office building, flat building, apartment building, tenement house and lodging house, three or more stories high, and every factory, workshop or other structure, three or more stories high, in which ten or more persons * * * may be employed above the ground floor, at any kind of labor, * * * one or more good and substantial metallic or fireproof * * * stairs or stairways, ready for use at all times, reaching from the cornice to the top of the first story and * * * attached to the outside thereof in such reasonable position and number as * * * to afford reasonable safe and convenient means of egress and escape in case of fire. * * *

3. All fire-escape stairways shall be placed at an angle not more than forty-five degrees, shall have attached thereto a wrought iron hand rail, not less than three feet in height; be constructed with steps not less than six inches in width, nor less than twenty-two inches in length, and with a rise of not more than eight inches, and constructed of sufficient strength, and in all other respects shall afford an accessible and safe exit

and escape in case of fire, for all occupants of the building that may at any time be dependent thereon. Such stairs shall rest upon and be securely bolted to a wrought iron balcony, that shall be located at each floor above the first, access to be provided to such balcony from at least two windows. Such balcony shall rest upon and be securely bolted to wrought iron brackets, the upper arm of which shall go through the wall and be securely fastened with nut and washer, and the lower end of which shall be let into the wall and be securely fastened in place. Such balcony shall not be less than three feet four inches wide, and shall be provided with a wrought iron railing not less than two feet nine inches high, and in all cases the ends of said railing shall be securely fastened to the building. No balcony railing shall be connected at angles by cast iron. All said fire-escape stairs shall be of such strength and construction as will sustain a load of at least one hundred and fifty pounds per step; and all said fire-escape balconies shall sustain a load of eighty pounds per square foot. There shall be afforded at all times free and unobstructed passageway to such fire-escape. The balcony on the top floor shall be provided with a goose-neck ladder leading to and above the roof, also to be placed at an angle of forty-five degrees. The lowest balcony shall be provided with a permanent balance stairway reaching to the ground. Such fire-escapes, in tenement houses, shall open directly from at least a hallway or one room other than a bath room or water-closet compartment, and from each and every story above the ground floor. For all lodging and boarding houses with separate rooms for occupants, such fire-escape must be directly accessible from all public halls in each story communicating with the several sleeping rooms.

4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require existing iron ladders or other fire-escapes to be replaced by iron stairs or stairways, but no existing ladder shall be replaced except by iron stairs or stairways. Nor shall anything in this act prohibit the use of such spiral or chute fire-escapes, as may be approved by the state factory inspector or commissioner of labor.

(Am. 1911, c. 664, s. 73.)

5. * * * In all cities and villages where there is a water supply, either from waterworks, fire-engines or pumping station, there shall be attached to such fire-escapes, except on structures equipped with automatic sprinklers, a three-inch wrought iron standpipe extending from a point within five feet from the ground to a point three feet above the roof or cornice, and on the roof shall be attached a two and one-half inch angle hose valve with male hose connection and a double or Siamese "Y" female hose connection at the base of the pipe,

the threads of which shall conform to the size and pattern used by the fire department where the structure is located.

6. *Any architect, who shall fail to specify fire-escapes as herein provided in plans for such buildings as are herein enumerated, or any person, firm or corporation, who shall move into or occupy any new building (or any old building having once been vacated) without such building or buildings being equipped with fire-escapes as herein provided, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars, or six months in the county jail, or both such fine and imprisonment.*

7. *It shall be the duty of any owner or manager of any theater, or public hall, to keep all aisles or passage ways entirely unobstructed during any performance or entertainment or public gathering in such theater or public hall.*

8. *All hallways and stairways in all hotels, apartment houses, factories and workshops, when used at night, shall be kept lighted at the head and foot of each flight of stairs and at the intersection of all corridors. Such light shall be so placed and arranged as to designate the direction of fire-escapes, which fire-escapes shall be designated by red lights. One or more gongs or alarms, capable of being heard throughout the building, shall be placed and remain easy of access and ready for use in said hotels, apartment houses, factories and workshops to give notice to occupants of said places in case of fire. A notice descriptive of the means of escape shall be posted in conspicuous places in every factory and workshop and in every sleeping room of a hotel, and in every such hotel containing one hundred rooms or more, not less than one efficient watchman shall be kept on duty from ten p. m. until five a. m., during each and every night that any such hotel is occupied.*

9. *Any such person or corporation, who shall fail for three months after the receipt of notice in writing, stating the substance of the provisions of this section, from such chief, marshal or inspector to provide and keep such means of escape or such standpipe, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars or by imprisonment in the county jail not more than thirty days.*

SECTION 2. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are repealed in so far as they are inconsistent therewith.

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Approved June 24, 1911.