

No. 617, A.]

[Published June 28, 1919.

CHAPTER 409.

AN ACT to amend subsection (2) of section 20.21 of the statutes, relating to reading circle work, and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. Subsection (2) of section 20.21 of the statutes is amended to read: (20.21) (2) Annually, beginning July 1, 1917, not to exceed five thousand four hundred dollars, for institutes for the instruction of teachers pursuant to section 37.14, and for conducting a state teachers' and a state young people's reading circle organized by the Wisconsin teachers' association. Not to exceed * * * eight hundred * * * dollars of this appropriation is allotted, annually, for such reading circles.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1919.

Approved June 25, 1919.

No. 357, S.]

[Published June 28, 1919.

CHAPTER 410.

AN ACT to amend chapter 385, laws of 1917, relating to the county court of Vernon county.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 385, laws of 1917, is amended to read:
1. There is hereby conferred upon the county court of Vernon county, in addition to the jurisdiction now possessed by said court, jurisdiction as follows:

(a) Said court shall have and exercise jurisdiction in all civil actions and proceedings at law wherein the amount involved does not exceed five hundred dollars and may hear, try and determine all such actions and proceedings in the same manner and pursuant to the same rules and practices now applicable to courts of justices of the peace. Said court shall have all the jurisdiction, powers, authority and rights given by law to justices of the peace and be subject to the same privileges and penalties. Nothing in this subsection contained shall be so construed as to prevent justices of the peace from exercise of the powers and duties now conferred upon them by law in all civil and criminal actions and proceedings.

(b) Said court shall have and exercise in all criminal matters, proceedings and preliminary examinations, the jurisdiction of

a justice of the peace. * * * Justices of the peace * * * may issue warrants returnable before said county court, but nothing in this act contained shall be so construed as to prevent the police justices and justices of the peace of said county from the exercise of jurisdiction * * * possessed by them * * * *under the general laws.*

2. The practice before said county court, pursuant to the jurisdiction hereby granted, shall in all respects be in harmony with the practice, rules and procedure now prevalent in courts of justices of the peace, costs shall be taxed in the same amount and manner, and said court may, until the county board of said county shall otherwise determine, charge the same fees now chargeable by justices of the peace and collect and retain the same. The county board may at any time increase or decrease the salary of said judge, whether during his term or otherwise, and provide for the payment of the fees collected by him, by virtue of the additional jurisdiction hereby granted, into the treasury of said county.

3. Said court shall always be open for business, Sundays and holidays only excepted, and shall be held at the office of the county judge, at the courthouse in the city of Viroqua, but court may be held at any other place in said county, if the public interest, or the convenience of witnesses so requires and the judges of said court shall so order.

4. The general provisions of law relative to civil and criminal actions in courts of justices of the peace shall apply to said court, as far as applicable. Appeals, in civil and criminal matters, taken from said court, may be taken at the same time, in the same manner, and with like effect as appeals are now taken to the circuit court of said county from courts of justices of the peace.

5. Trials by jury shall be had in the same manner and process as such trials by jury are now had in justice court. Sheriffs and constables, as well as the city marshal of the city of Viroqua, and any person specially deputized by the court for the purpose, may execute the processes of said court in the same manner and charge the same fees now chargeable by law for like services in courts of justices of the peace.

6. All summonses and other process shall be substantially in the form now required by law for use in courts of justices of the peace, but under the name of the county judge of Vernon county. The summons may be substantially in the following form:

VERNON COUNTY }
CITY OF VIROQUA } ss.

The state of Wisconsin to the sheriff or any constable or police officer of said county: You are hereby commanded to summon A. B., if he shall be found within your county, to appear before the *said* undersigned, the county judge of said county, at the county court room, in the courthouse in the city of Viroqua, county aforesaid, on the----day of-----, A. D.--at----- o'clock in the----- noon of said day, to answer to C. D., plaintiff, to his damage, five hundred dollars, or under. Hereof fail not at your peril. Given under my hand at Viroqua, Vernon county, Wisconsin, this-----day of-----A. D.---

County Judge.

All processes shall be made returnable at the same time and in like manner that processes are returnable before justices of the peace.

7. Judgments of said court shall have the same force and effect as the judgments of courts of justices of the peace and may be transcribed to the circuit court for said county and there filed and docketed by the clerk in the same manner and with like effect as a judgment of a justice of the peace.

8. In case of the temporary absence or disability of the county judge to attend to the duties hereby conferred upon him, he may by order in writing to be filed in court, designate and appoint a court commissioner of said county to discharge the duties under any of the additional powers granted to said court. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the calling in of some other county judge to exercise said jurisdiction. Any outside county judge or court commissioner so called in shall have and exercise all the powers and duties of the county judge of Vernon county as to the additional jurisdiction hereby conferred. Any such official so called in to perform the duties of said judge shall receive the sum of five dollars for each day actually and necessarily employed and his actual and necessary expenses, to be paid by the county.

9. The county judge may, in his discretion, call in a stenographic reporter to take the testimony in any case, civil or criminal, pending before him, and file a duly transcribed copy of the testimony thus taken in shorthand when reduced to type-written form, as the testimony in the case when duly certified by the judge, and the judge may tax for the taking of said testimony twelve cents per folio. Copies of said testimony shall be furnished by such stenographer to interested parties at two and one-half

cents per folio. Such stenographer shall be paid by the judge six cents per folio for taking such testimony, after the same is duly transcribed and filed and shall be paid by Vernon county, the sum of two dollars per day for each day actually employed in taking of said testimony and nothing per day in time employed in transcribing the same. Such provision for compensation of the reporter shall continue until changed by the county board of supervisors of Vernon county. Said county board shall have authority to change said method of compensation of the stenographer in any manner it deems best and fix the compensation at such sum as it shall deem reasonable.

10. The clerk of the circuit court for said county shall act as ex officio clerk of the county court in the discharge by said court of the jurisdiction hereby conferred whenever requested so to do by the county judge and the register in probate may act as deputy clerk and either of the said officials may certify to copies of records and proceedings of said court as fully as the county judge might do, and affix the seal of said county court to said certificate, and such document, when so certified and sealed and attested shall be received in evidence in all courts of this state on production of said certificate.

11. Whenever an affidavit of prejudice shall be filed, showing that the said county judge will not decide impartially in the matter, providing the affidavit is filed in like form, time and manner now provided for filing affidavits of prejudice before justices of the peace, the court, instead of transmitting the papers to the next nearest magistrate, shall make an order calling in the county judge of an adjoining county, or any court commissioner of Vernon county, and said official so called in being not related to the parties or otherwise disqualified, shall hear, try and determine the matter in the same manner and with like effect as the county judge might do and receive the compensation provided by subsection 8 hereof, to be paid by the county *provided in any criminal action in which the court has jurisdiction to hear, try and determine, the accused shall have a right to obtain a change of venue at any time before the actual commencement of the trial.*

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved June 25, 1919.