

CHAPTER 44.

AN ACT to create 19.08 of the statutes, creating a state committee on official state bonds and prescribing its duties and functions.

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

19.08 of the statutes is created to read:

19.08 COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL STATE BONDS; POWERS AND DUTIES. (1) A committee on official state bonds is created consisting of the director of budget and accounts, attorney general and commissioner of insurance or their respective designated representatives. The members of the committee shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for traveling expenses actually incurred in the performance of their official duties. The committee shall elect from its membership a chairman and a vice-chairman. It may designate one of its members secretary or it may designate an employe of one of the departments represented on the committee as secretary. The committee's office shall be located in connection with one of such departments. Any clerical, stenographic or other assistance required by the committee shall be furnished upon request of the committee by other departments or agencies as provided in section 14.65.

(2) The committee shall make a survey of all statutory provisions specifically requiring official bonds by state officers, employes, departments or agencies, and shall ascertain as to each such bond in force the number of employes covered, the total coverage and premium cost. It shall report such information to the next succeeding regular session of the legislature together with its recommendations as to needed statutory or other changes to promote the best interests of the state, as to the advisability of providing for department blanket bonds in specified cases, as to what officers or employes, if any, should be required to secure individual surety bonds, and as to such other matters as the committee may determine.

(3) Any department head, officer, department or agency required by law to secure a bond from particular officers or employes may, with the approval of the committee, secure a department blanket bond which provides coverage under one contract for one premium, covering all officers and employes or all classes or groups of officers and employes in the department or agency, excepting only such officers and employes or classes thereof for whom such blanket coverage cannot be secured. When a department blanket bond is secured, individual bonds required by law shall not be required for officers or employes within the coverage of such bond, excepting such officers or employes as the committee determines should in the best interests of the state secure individual bonds.

(4) Whenever the committee finds that it is for the best interests of the state, it may require any department head, officer, department or agency to secure a department blanket bond provided for in subsection (3).

(5) All bonds provided for under this section shall be first approved by the committee as to coverage, penal amount, premium and form, and the decision of the committee shall be final.

(6) All such bonds, unless otherwise specifically provided by law, shall be covenants to the state of Wisconsin that the officers, employes or occupants of positions covered by the bond will account properly for all moneys and property received by virtue of their position or employment.

(7) The penal amounts of the bonds taken under this section shall be fixed by the committee in accordance with the duties and responsibilities indicated by the bureau of personnel's applicable classification of the position, the actual duties performed, and the amounts of money and property handled by the respective officers and employes.

Approved April 12, 1949.