

CHAPTER 578.

AN ACT to amend 13.35 (1), (2), (3) (a), (b) and (d), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9) and (10) and 20.015 (1) of the statutes, relating to the joint legislative council.

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

SECTION 1. 13.35 (1), (2), (3) (a), (b) and (d), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9) and (10) of the statutes are amended to read:

13.35 (1) There is created a joint legislative council, consisting of * * * 6 senators and * * * 9 assemblymen, *one of whom shall be the president pro tempore of the senate and one of whom shall be the speaker of the assembly, and the remainder to be appointed as are standing committees in the respective houses, * * * and at least one shall be appointed from * * * each congressional district; and * * * the remaining five from the state at large.* The terms of all members shall expire on May 1 in each odd-numbered year. The council shall elect from its membership a chairman and a secretary.

(2) The council may appoint * * * *committees* consisting of members of the legislature and such citizens having special knowledge on a particular subject as the council may determine, to study and report on assigned subjects. The members of such * * * *committees* shall be certified to the secretary of state. One member of the council shall be ex officio a member of each * * * *committee*. A vacancy on such council shall be filled by the speaker of the house in case of members of the assembly and by the president of the senate in case of the senate members. A vacancy on any * * * *committee* shall be filled as in the case of original appointment.

(3) The council shall make such surveys and studies, and compile such data, information and records on any question which may be referred to it for interim study and investigation or on such other matters as in its judgment will be beneficial * * * *to the general welfare of our state. To this end the council shall:*

(a) Maintain liaison with federal, state and local officials and agencies concerned with * * * *planning, housing, veterans' administration and the public welfare.*

(b) Prepare studies of the methods of financing education, veterans' benefits and * * * *planning projects, including, if necessary, the acquisition of additional revenue therefor.*

(d) To make recommendations for legislative or administrative action on any subject or question it has considered, including the * * * *introduction of such * * * bills as may be deemed advisable.*

(4) The council or any * * * *committee* thereof when so authorized by the council is empowered to hold public hearings at such times and places within the state as may be determined, *and to make such investigations and surveys as deemed advisable or necessary to accomplish the purposes and intent of this section.* Any member of the council or of any * * * *committee* shall have the power to administer oaths to persons testifying before the council or any * * * *committee*. By subpoena, issued over the signature of its chairman, or acting chairman, and served in the manner in which circuit court subpoenas are served, the council or any * * * *committee when authorized by the council,* may summon and compel the attendance of witnesses * * *. If any witness subpoenaed to appear before said council, or any * * * *committee thereof,* shall refuse to appear or to answer inquiries propounded, * * * *the council or * * * committee shall report the facts to the circuit court of Dane county, and it shall be the duty of such court to compel obedience to * * * such subpoena by attachment proceedings for contempt as in the case of disobedience of the requirements of a subpoena issued from such court or a refusal to testify therein.*

(5) Any subject proposed for study or investigation during the interim between legislative sessions shall be referred to and considered by the legislative council. If the council determines that proposed study or investigation is feasible and is not within a subject already assigned, the council shall appoint a * * * *committee* to conduct such study or investigation. * * *

(6) The council may require that any recommendation for legislation to be presented by any department, official or agency of the state government * * * be presented to it for *consideration* at least * * * 90 days prior to the regular session.

(7) The members of the council or the * * * *committees* shall receive no compensation for their services but they shall be reimbursed for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. The council may employ * * * *an executive secretary, stenographers and clerks and such technical assistance* as may be

necessary within or without the provisions of chapter 16, and *determine the qualifications and fix the compensation of such personnel* * * *. The council or any * * * *committee* may call upon any state department, agency or officer, or *any* agency of any political subdivision for such facilities and data as may be available and * * * *such* departments * * * and agencies * * * shall co-operate with the council or any * * * *committee* to the fullest possible extent.

(8) The council, or any * * * *committee* appointed by it, may meet at such time and place as it may determine, but the council shall meet at least once every 3 months. It shall meet upon call of the chairman or a call signed by 5 members of the council. * * * *Eight* members shall constitute a quorum and a majority of such quorum may act in any matter within the jurisdiction of the council.

(9) The council shall submit a report of its findings, conclusions and recommendations to * * * *the governor and the legislature prior to the opening of the session, and may submit a report to any special session.* It may submit with its report drafts of such bills as it may deem advisable.

(10) The council * * * shall be provided with adequate office space in the capitol building, preferably in such * * * rooms as are assigned to legislative committees during regular sessions.

SECTION 2. 20.015 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

20.015 (1) There is appropriated from the general fund annually, beginning July 1, 1947, \$30,000 to the joint legislative council created by section 13.35 for the execution of the functions of the council and its * * * *committees.* Expenditures from this appropriation shall be by voucher signed by the chairman * * * *or* secretary of the council.

Approved August 1, 1949.
