

No. 529, A.]

[Published July 8, 1953.

CHAPTER 392

AN ACT to create 20.015 (4) of the statutes, relating to codification of laws pertaining to protection and care of children and youth and to a study of programs and services established or needed to provide such protection and care, by the legislative council and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. The welfare of the community, state and nation depends upon the mental, physical and moral strength of its citizens. Such strengths are formed largely in childhood and youth. Since the enactment of the children's code (chapter 439, laws of 1929) there have been many developments and changes affecting both the scope and nature of problems affecting children and youth and the health, educational and protective

services designed to meet these problems. These changing situations have been met only partially by piecemeal amendments of the statutes affecting children. There is patent need for re-evaluation of our administrative and judicial programs and procedures to codify these scattered enactments, to eliminate the obsolete, and to adjust to present needs, thus to promote the general welfare of children and youth most effectively and economically.

SECTION 2. The joint legislative council is directed to conduct a study of all present laws relating to children and youth with a view to systematic and unified codification and to develop such information as will enable the legislature to enact a long-range program to provide more adequately and efficiently for the health, welfare and education of these future citizens of this state. Such a study should give particular consideration to:

(1) Evaluation of the continuing need for the institutional program of child care at the Wisconsin child center.

(2) Evaluation of the state's foster home program to determine if further steps can or should be taken to provide such care for children now cared for at the Wisconsin child center.

(3) A review of the present situation affecting temporary care and detention of children and youth to determine the proper role of the state and of local communities in providing facilities for such care and detention in order to prevent the necessity for detention of children in jails.

(4) A review of all direct care services to children and youth now being provided by the state to determine whether they need to be more effectively co-ordinated.

(5) The division of responsibility between local and state agencies providing child care and protection.

(6) The methods of financing the public programs of care and services for children and youth.

(7) A study of the present facilities and services or lack of such services and facilities for the care and treatment of physically, mentally or emotionally handicapped children.

(8) A study of the adequacy of local community services for the prevention of delinquency, dependency, neglect and mental or emotional maladjustment among children, to determine in what ways the state may most effectively help local communities to strengthen such prevention programs.

SECTION 3. An advisory committee shall be appointed to direct the study. The committee shall consist of 3 senators and 3 assemblymen to be appointed as are standing committees in their respective houses, and 3 citizens-at-large, with a knowledge of and interest in the problems of children and youth, selected by the council. The advisory committee shall select a project director who shall devote at least half time to this job. Members of the advisory committee shall be paid their necessary and actual expenses while engaged in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 4. The state departments of public welfare and public instruction and the state board of health shall cooperate in the study and are authorized to release employes for periods not to exceed 3 months to participate in this study, and to provide such information as may be requested by the project director.

SECTION 5. The report of the legislative council shall be submitted to the 1955 session of the legislature.

SECTION 6. 20.015 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

20.015 (4) CODIFICATION AND STUDY OF LAWS RELATING TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH. (a) There is appropriated from the general fund on July 1, 1953, and July 1, 1954, \$7,500 to the joint legislative council for the codification and study of all laws relating to care and protection of children and youth, including the aid to dependent children program and a revision of ch. 48, and the preparation of a report thereon.

(b) Payments from this appropriation shall be made by voucher, signed by the chairman and secretary of the council, but shall not be used for compensation or expenses of employes of state departments who may be temporarily released by such departments to participate in this study.

Approved July 2, 1953.