

No. 294, A.]

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CHAPTER 621

AN ACT to create 20.023 and 285.06 of the statutes, relating to relieving state law enforcement officers from judgments against them in certain cases and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. 20.023 of the statutes is created to read:
20.023 JUDGMENT DEBTOR RELIEF COMMISSION. There is appropriated to the judgment debtor relief commission from the respective funds from which the

salaries of state law enforcement officers are paid a sum sufficient for the payment of amounts awarded toward the payment of judgments, counsel fees and costs as provided in s. 285.06.

SECTION 2. 285.06 of the statutes is created to read:

285.06 PAYMENT TOWARD STATE EMPLOYEE JUDGMENTS. (1) The governor, the chairman of the senate finance committee, the chairman of the assembly finance committee and the director of public welfare shall constitute a commission for the relief of law enforcement officers employed by the state who have judgments against them for damages caused while in their line of duty where they acted in good faith and who have incurred charges for counsel fees and costs in defending said action.

(2) Any such judgment debtor may petition the commission, setting forth the amount of the judgment, fees and costs which he must pay, the facts and circumstances causing the damages resulting in the judgment and the reasons for claiming relief under this section. The petition may be filed in the executive office.

(3) Upon receipt of such petitions the commission shall fix a time and place for hearing the matter and give notice thereof to the petitioner.

(4) Upon the hearing the record of the trial in which the judgment was had may be presented to the commission but the findings, conclusions and determination and the award of, or the denial thereof by the commission, shall be based on all the evidence and circumstances submitted to it which bear on the petition.

(5) If from its findings of fact the commission concludes that the petitioner was in line of duty as a law enforcement officer of the state and acted in good faith at the time of the transaction in question, the commission shall so award, and certify to the petitioner the amount of the judgment, fees and costs which the petitioner must pay, from the appropriation made by s. 20.023, but not to exceed \$5,000.

(6) If the commission shall find that the amount it is able to award will not be adequate it shall report the amount of the difference to the legislature for its action.

(7) The commission shall keep a complete record of its proceedings in each case and of all the evidence. The findings, conclusions, determination and award shall be subject to review as provided in ch. 227.

Approved July 22, 1953.
