

No. 717, A.]

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CHAPTER 431

AN ACT to repeal and recreate 59.87; and to create 36.215 (5) of the statutes, relating to the establishment of a co-operative extension service in agriculture and home economics.

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

SECTION 1. 36.215 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

36.215 (5) The regents of the university, through the college of agriculture, are authorized to do all things necessary to carry out the purposes of s. 59.87, relating to county co-operative extension service in agriculture and home economics.

SECTION 2. 59.87 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

59.87 CO-OPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS. (1) CREATION. Any county board, in accordance with this section, may establish and maintain a co-operative extension service in agriculture and home economics, referred to in this section as "co-operative extension service".

(2) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. If the county board of supervisors determines to establish a co-operative extension service, it shall create a committee on agriculture consisting of the chairman of the board, 3 other members of the board selected by the board and the county superin-

tendent of schools. The members of the committee on agriculture shall receive such compensation and expenses as the board may determine under the authority of s. 59.15 (2) (c) and (3). The committee on agriculture shall meet at such intervals as is deemed necessary to properly carry out its functions and responsibilities.

(3) STAFF. (a) The committee on agriculture shall appoint professionally qualified persons to the co-operative extension service staff in co-operation with the college of agriculture, and vacancies and additions to the staff shall be filled in the same manner.

(b) The committee on agriculture shall have the power to enter into joint employment agreements provided that county funds committed in such agreements shall first have been duly appropriated by the board. Persons so employed under co-operative agreements and approved by the board of regents shall be considered employes of both the county and of the university of Wisconsin.

(4) FINANCE. For the partial maintenance of the work of the co-operative extension service, including co-operative extension work as is provided for in an act of congress approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 372) and all acts supplementary thereto, the board may appropriate moneys sufficient to cover the share of the county in such work. The money shall be disbursed by the treasurer only upon orders of the clerk which have been approved by the committee on agriculture.

(5) STATE AIDS. To supplement the funds provided by the county for the work of the co-operative extension services, each county shall be entitled to a minimum state aid of \$1,500 per year if the county board has made the required appropriation to maintain such services, and such additional funds as are required to provide salary increases equal to those granted to state employes by the legislature.

(6) FUNCTIONS. Such co-operative extension service is authorized, under the direction and supervision of the county committee on agriculture, co-operating with the college of agriculture of the university of Wisconsin, and within the limits of funds provided by the board and co-operating state and federal agencies, to:

(a) Aid in the development and improvement of all phases of agricultural production, processing and marketing at the individual farm, community-wide and county-wide level.

(b) Assist in the improvement of farm and home management and business methods and practices.

(c) Prepare young people for useful citizenship by conducting county-wide or community-wide programs, projects or activities to guide the physical, mental and moral growth of young people through 4-H club work and other means.

(d) Aid in the improvement of homes, homemaking and family living.

(e) Aid in fostering and protecting improved land use and in the conservation of soil, forests, wildlife and water.

(f) Assist local group and service agencies in the development and improvement of recreational and tourist facilities and opportunities.

(g) Aid in community development endeavors by local people and service agencies to provide employment for surplus labor and improve the economic or social level of the community.

(h) Do other work designed to improve agriculture and country life conditions, recreational opportunities or rural development of the county.

(i) Carry out any extension work provided for in an act of congress approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 372) and all acts supplementary thereto.

(j) Take any action that will facilitate the accomplishment of any of the functions listed herein, including without limitation because of enumeration, the following:

1. Training of group leaders and the directing of group activities.
2. Individual or group instruction or consultation.

3. Soil testing.
4. County recreational programs.
5. Demonstration projects, exhibits and other instructional means.
6. Group meetings, institutes and activities.
7. Guidance in the formation and operation of co-operative enterprises.
8. Creation of citizens' advisory committees.
9. Dissemination of information by any appropriate means including press, radio and television.
10. Co-operation with other local, state and federal agencies.

(7) DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT. For the purposes of s. 59.15 (2) (d) the co-operative extension service shall be a department of the county government and the committee on agriculture shall be the committee to which is hereby delegated the authority to direct and supervise such department. In co-operation with the college of agriculture of the university of Wisconsin, the committee on agriculture shall have the responsibility for the formulation and execution of the program of the co-operative extension service. The co-operative extension service shall annually report to the board its activities and accomplishments.

(8) CO-OPERATION. The county superintendent of schools and the co-operative extension service shall co-operate in order to further educational work in the county. The personnel of the co-operative extension service shall, whenever feasible, co-operate with other educational programs relating to agriculture and home economics, conservation and citizenship in the county.

SECTION 3. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS. The county agricultural representative and his staff as constituted at the time this act takes effect shall be the co-operative extension service of the county. All funds, properties, assets, liabilities of the agricultural representative and his staff shall be transferred to the co-operative extension service of the county on that day. The co-operative extension service shall assume all incomplete work of the agricultural extension service and carry them to completion.

Approved July 20, 1957.
