

AN ACT relative to Printing.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The secretary of state is hereby authorized and required within two weeks of the close of every regular session of the legislature to advertise for four weeks successively in four different papers published in different sections of the state for sealed proposals for doing the printing of the legislature and the several state departments: Said advertisement shall divide the printing required into three classes as follows: First, The incidental printing comprising the printing incident to the business of the two houses; Second, The journals of the two houses and the laws: Third, The printing of the several state departments, each class to be a separate job and provided for by a separate contract: The said advertisement shall require specifications in the bids as follows: For the first class, the price of composition per thousand ems, the price of the paper and the price of press work: For the second class, specifications as above with the cost of folding stitching and binding for each copy of the work required and for preparing side notes and index for the laws, and index for journals, and for the third class the price per quire of the requisite blanks; and it shall be incumbent on the secretary of state aforesaid to keep in his office for inspection a specimen of the character style and quality of the work required in the several classes, or to communicate to distant bidders when requested as near as may be the character in the several respects mentioned of the work required: Said proposals shall be endorsed on the outside as proposals for the incidental printing for the journals and the laws or for the state departments as the case may be and shall be received at the secretary's office at the seat of government, and the day and time of day at which such proposals shall cease to be received shall be specified: Provided that the time of receiving such proposals shall in all cases cease within a time at least six weeks previous to the commencement of the next succeeding regular session of the legislature: and provided further that the said sealed proposals shall remain sealed until the hour appointed for examining the same.

Sec. 2. Immediately on the expiration of the time for receiving said proposals they shall be opened by the secretary of state aforesaid in the presence of the treasurer of the state and of such of the bidders as may choose to be present, and the secretary aforesaid shall thereupon let each class of printing to the lowest bidder and he shall immediately after such letting notify the successful bidder of his appointment to do the work, and it shall be the duty of the person so appointed within four weeks of his appointment to execute to the state a bond in the sum of four thousand dollars, conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties assigned him, which bond shall be approved by the governor and deposited in the said secretary's office, and in case of failure on the part of the person so appointed to execute said bond as aforesaid then the next lowest bidder shall be awarded the contract who shall execute a bond as aforesaid: Provided that no bid shall be considered unless accompanied by a guarantee sufficient in amount that the person bidding will if successful fulfil his contract; and in case of failure on the part of any person to whom a contract may be awarded to fulfil his duties under such award, he shall be responsible on his guarantee for all additional cost which may accrue to the state in consequence of such failure.

Sec. 3. A committee consisting of two members of the senate and three members of the assembly shall at the commencement of every session be appointed by their respective houses, which shall constitute a committee on printing, who shall have power to examine the bids on file in the office of the secretary aforesaid, and to investigate matters generally with reference to the printing, to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary to remedy any default on the part of the secretary in his duties or any neglect or delay on the part of the contractor to execute the work ordered by the two houses, and to make a pro rata reduction in the compensation allowed, or to refuse the work altogether should it be inferior to the standard or delayed in the execution, subject however to the action of the legislature, and in all cases the contractor, and his securities, shall be responsible for any increased expenditure consequent upon the non-performance of his contract: The committee shall audit and pass upon all accounts for printing, but no bill shall be acted upon for work that is not actually executed and delivered and which they may require to be properly authenticated and when any documents of a general character are ordered by either house the matter shall be referred to the committee, and in no case

shall the composition of a document ordered by both houses be paid for more than once.

SEC. 4. After the execution and acceptance of the bond of security the person to whom the printing has been awarded shall be the person to do said work for the term for which he was chosen, and no account from any other person for printing shall be considered or allowed: Provided, that the legislature may annul any contract for incidental printing, for any unreasonable delay in the execution of the work or for doing it in an inferior or improper manner, and provided further that the liability of any security shall not be effected thereby.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the secretary of state within one week after the passage of any law or joint resolution to furnish to the person appointed to print the laws, a correct copy of the same and it shall be the duty of the person so appointed to furnish within four weeks after the close of any session of the legislature to the secretary of state at his office, the prescribed number of copies of laws completed according to contract and it shall be the duty of the chief clerk of each house or such other officer as the legislature may direct to furnish to the printer appointed to do the work within ten days after the close of each session, a correct copy of the journals of their respective houses, and the printer aforesaid shall furnish at the office of the secretary aforesaid within three months after the close of such session the prescribed number of journals completed according to contract.

SEC. 6. The term of service of the printer to whom has been awarded a contract for work, shall commence with the session of the legislature next holden after such award and shall continue for one year or until the commencement of the next regular session thereafter.

N. E. WHITESIDE,
Speaker of the Assembly.
JOHN E. HOLMES,

Lieut. Governor and President of the Senate.

Approved, August 19, 1848.

NELSON DEWEY.