

CHAPTER 189.

[Published March 18, 1876.]

AN ACT for the organization of corporations for benevolent purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Any number of persons, not less than three, who shall desire to associate themselves together for the purpose of affording relief to the members of the association in sickness or distress, or by contributing the expenses for burying the dead, or furnishing aid to their widows and orphans, and for other benevolent purposes, may, with their associates, successors and assigns, become a body corporate and politic by complying with the provisions of this act, under any name assumed by them, which, however, shall not be the same as that in use by any other corporation or company.

Authority to form corporation.

SECTION 2. The persons so desiring to associate together and to form a corporation, shall enter into written articles of association to be signed by them and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take the acknowledgment of deeds, stating distinctly the purposes for which such corporation is organized.

Articles of association.

SECTION 3. Upon the filing of such articles of association, if it shall appear that the same contains all the provisions required to be stated therein, by the preceding sections, it shall be the duty of the governor and secretary of state, to issue to the persons so associating, a patent under the great seal of the state, to be signed by the governor and countersigned by the secretary of state, substantially in the following form:

Patent to be issued by governor.

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting:

Form of patent.

Whereas, (naming the persons subscribing the articles of association), have filed in the office of the secretary of state certain articles of association, with a view to forming a corporation to be known as (here insert the name), for the purpose of (here insert the purposes for which the corporation is organized, as stated in the articles of association), and have complied with the provisions of the statutes in such case made and provided, the State of Wisconsin does hereby grant unto the above named persons, and their successors and assigns, full authority, by and in the

name of —, to exercise the powers and privileges of a corporation, for the purposes hereinbefore stated, and in accordance with their said articles of association and the laws of this state. In witness whereof, these presents have been attested with the great seal and signed by the governor, and countersigned by the secretary of state of the State of Wisconsin, at Madison, the — day, of —, in the year one thousand eight hundred and —.

[Seal.] ———, ———,

Secretary of State. Governor.

Unlawful to appropriate funds for other purposes than those specified.

SECTION 4. From and after the filing of such articles of association and the issuing of said patent, the parties therein named shall, with their successors and assigns, constitute a body politic and corporate under the name so assumed by them, and for the purposes specified in such articles of association, with the powers and subject to the limitations provided in this act; but it shall not be lawful for such corporation to direct its operations or appropriate its funds to any other purpose than those specified in such articles of association.

General powers of corporation.

SECTION 5. All corporations organized and established under the provisions of this law, shall be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, appearing and prosecuting to final judgment in any court of this state any suit or action in which such corporation may be a party or interested in any manner. They may have a common seal and alter the same at pleasure, may elect in such manner as by their by-laws they may determine, all necessary officers, fix their compensation and define their duties; may ordain and establish by-laws for the government and regulation of their affairs, and alter and repeal the same at pleasure and employ all such agents as they shall think proper. They may also change their places of business in this state, and establish branch offices at such place or places within this state as may be necessary and convenient for the transaction of the business of the corporation.

Persons subscribing articles of association to have direction thereof.

SECTION 6. Until a board of directors shall be elected, the persons subscribing the articles of association shall have the direction of the affairs of the corporation, and they may adopt such temporary rules and regulations as may be necessary to perfect the organization of the corporation, and the members of the association may assemble at such time and place

as they may agree upon, and elect a board of directors, which board shall designate one member as president, one member as secretary and one member as treasurer. All of the officers elected shall hold their office for such time as shall be prescribed by the by-laws of the corporation.

SECTION 7. The said corporation shall have the power to purchase, to take by gift, grant or devise, and to hold and convey any real or personal property which may belong to such corporation. The conveyances of any real estate disposed of by the corporation, shall be executed only in accordance with an order entered on the records of the corporation by a majority of the board of directors, and when so executed shall be signed by the president and countersigned by the secretary under the seal of the corporation.

Corporation may hold or convey property.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after the passage and publication thereof.

Approved March 8, 1876.

CHAPTER 190.

[Published March 13, 1876.]

AN ACT in relation to evidence in suits on official bonds and to recover public funds.

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

SECTION 1. In any action brought upon any official bond, or to recover against any one, public funds, or moneys received by him in any official, or in his personal capacity, no party thereto, or witness called therein, shall be privileged or excused from testifying to any matter relevant to the issue, on the ground that his testimony will or may tend to accuse or criminate himself, or subject him to a civil liability, but such person may be compelled to appear and give evidence before any court, or before referees, if such action shall be referred, in the same manner as other persons; but the testimony so given shall not be used in any criminal prosecution or proceeding against the person so testifying, except upon a prosecution for perjury committed in giving such testimony.

Persons not to be excused from testifying in case for recovery of public funds.