

No. 359, A.]

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CHAPTER 396

AN ACT to create section 1828a of the statutes, to empower railroad corporations formed under chapter 87 of the statutes to use electricity as motive power.

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

SECTION 1. A new section is added to the statutes to read: Section 1828a. All existing or future railroad corporations within this state, formed under chapter 87 of the statutes, shall, in addition to the powers conferred upon them by chapter 85 of the statutes, and said chapter 87 of the statutes, have power to use electricity in lieu of steam, as a motive power, or to use both electricity and steam; such total or partial substitution of electricity for steam, as a motive power, to be made only in the event that the railroad commission of Wisconsin shall upon proceedings analogous to those whereby a certificate of public convenience and necessity may be obtained, as provided by the statutes, require the publication of notice, and at a hearing determine said petition upon its merits and grant the same, if the terms of such substitution shall, for any reason in the discretion of said railroad commission of Wisconsin, appear to be beneficial to the welfare of the petitioner and of the community or territory served or proposed to be served by it. As provided with respect to certificates of public convenience and necessity, and within the same time, proceedings may be transferred to and heard by the circuit court of Dane county, on motion of any party to such proceeding, but no proceedings beyond the determination of the railroad commission of Wisconsin shall be taken except from an order granting or refusing the relief sought by the petition. In determining the merits of such petition, the railroad commission of Wisconsin shall consider and base its determination upon the questions of economy, cleanness, and efficiency of service.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and publication.

Approved June 13, 1917.