

No. 11, A.]

[Published May 9, 1951.

CHAPTER 203.

AN ACT to create 23.26 of the statutes, relating to a natural resources committee of state agencies.

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

23.26 of the statutes is created to read:

23.26 NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. (1) The purpose of this section is to promote the welfare of the state of Wisconsin by providing a method of collecting, analyzing and interpreting information and of making recommendations to the several state agencies on matters relating to the soils, waters, forests, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources of the state, and to provide a means whereby the several state agencies may better co-ordinate their efforts and activities in managing and regulating such natural resources and the protection, development and use thereof.

(2) There is created a natural resources committee of state agencies consisting of the governor as chairman, ex officio; 2 members of the joint legislative council appointed by the chairman of the council; 2 representatives of the state conservation department appointed by the conservation commission; 2 representatives of the university of Wisconsin appointed by the president of the university; 2 representatives of the public service commission appointed by the public service commission; 2 representatives of the state department of agriculture appointed by the state board of agriculture; one representative of the state board of health appointed by the state board of health; one representative of the state planning board appointed by the state planning board; one representative of the attorney-general's office appointed by the attorney-general and one representative of the state soil conservation committee appointed by the committee. Each such representative shall be a member of the staff of his respective board, commission, department, office or agency and, with the exception of the governor, shall continue in office at the pleasure of his appointing body.

(3) The governor shall call the first meeting of the committee at the state capitol without delay and the committee shall elect a secretary from its membership. Meetings may be called by the chairman and shall be called on request of any 2 members, and may be held as often as necessary but not less than 4 times each year. Seven members of said committee shall constitute a quorum. The state chief engineer shall provide rooms for meetings of the committee held at the state capitol.

(4) The members of the committee and of subcommittees appointed by it shall receive no salary as such members but shall be reimbursed their actual and necessary traveling and other expenses incurred in attendance upon meetings of the committees or while in the performance of their duties as such members. Such expenses shall be paid and allowed to each such member by the board, commission, department, office, or agency by which such member is appointed or employed and from its appropriation.

(5) The secretary of the committee shall be responsible for calling all meetings of the committee and notifying the members thereof, and for the preparation of the agenda for such meetings. He shall also be responsible for preparing and editing the minutes of the meetings of the committee and the reports of the committee to the legislature. The conservation commission or any other state department mentioned in subsection (2) shall, if so requested by the committee, provide stenographic and clerical services for the preparation of the minutes and reports of the committee.

(6) The committee shall have the power to appoint subcommittees consisting of employees and members of the several state boards, commissions, departments, offices, and

agencies, and to authorize such subcommittees to make investigations and surveys and to report to the committee on such matters as may be necessary to enable the committee to carry out the purposes of this section.

(7) The committee shall make a report of its findings and recommendations to each regular session of the state legislature and such additional reports as may be required by the legislature and by the joint legislative council. The committee shall make reports of its findings and recommendations to the several state boards, commissions, departments, offices, and agencies from time to time as it deems advisable.

(8) The several state boards, commissions, departments, offices, and agencies shall cooperate with the committee by furnishing and making available to it such information and data relating to their projects and programs affecting the natural resources of the state as the committee may require in order to perform its duties.

Approved May 4, 1951.
