

No. 207, S.]

[Published June 17, 1953.

CHAPTER 278

AN ACT to renumber 20.71 (except introductory paragraph); and to create 15.71 and 20.71 (2) of the statutes, relating to merit awards to state employes and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. 15.71 of the statutes is created to read:

15.71 MERIT AWARD TO STATE EMPLOYEES. (1) MERIT AWARD BOARD CREATED. There is created within the bureau of personnel, a Wisconsin state employes merit award board, to consist of 3 persons who may be state officers or employes to be appointed by the governor. Initial appointments shall be for 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively, for terms to commence July 1, 1953. Thereafter each appointment shall be for a term of 3 years. All terms shall expire June 30 of the year of expiration. Vacancies shall be filled by the governor for the unexpired term. Annually the board shall elect one of its members as chairman of the board. The members of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(2) DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall have authority and it shall be its duty:

(a) To formulate, establish and maintain a plan or plans to encourage and reward unusual and meritorious suggestions and accomplishments by state employes promoting efficiency and economy in the performance of any function of state government;

(b) To appoint departmental or divisional committees to analyze and review suggestions and accomplishments of state employes submitted for consideration under such plan or plans, and to make recommendations thereon to the board;

(c) To make and render merit awards to or for the benefit of state employes nominated to receive them in accordance with such plan or plans.

(3) PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND EQUIPMENT OF THE BOARD. The director of personnel shall detail and assign for the use of the board such personnel, facilities, and equipment as the board may require for the proper performance of its work. The board may request and shall receive from any state department such assistance as it may require, and each such department shall make available to the board, upon its request, any of its personnel and facilities required for the furtherance of the work of the board.

(4) AWARDS. The board may determine the nature and extent of the merit awards to be made under this section which may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(a) Certificates, medals or other appropriate insignia which shall be in such form and shall be awarded at such times as the board may fix and determine;

(b) Cash awards, which shall be of such amount and shall be payable at such times as the board may fix and determine.

(5) RULES AND REGULATIONS. The board shall have full power and authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the operation of any plan or plans established under this section, the eligibility and qualifications of state employes participating therein, the character and quality of suggestions and accomplishments submitted for consideration, the method of their submission and the procedure for their review, nominations for merit awards, and the kind, character and value of such awards, and such other rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary or appropriate for the proper administration of this section or for the accomplishment of the purposes thereof.

SECTION 2. 20.71 (except introductory paragraph) of the statutes is renumbered 20.71 (1).

SECTION 3. 20.71 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

20.71 (2) Annually, beginning July 1, 1953, \$1,000 to defray the expenses incurred by the merit award board and for the payment of awards pursuant to s. 15.71.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 1953.

Approved June 10, 1953.
