

No. 624, A.]

[Published April 15, 1891.

CHAPTER 204.

AN ACT to aid impecunious litigants.

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

Attorney may contract with client for share of recovery in suit; attorney's lien.

SECTION 1. Any person having, or claiming a right of action against any person or corporation, sounding in tort, or unliquidated damages on contract, may lawfully contract with any attorney to prosecute the same in any court of competent jurisdiction, and by agreement with such attorney, give him a lien upon such cause of action, as security for his fees in the conduct of such litigation. And when such agreement shall be made, and notice thereof given to the opposite party or his attorney, no settlement or adjustment thereof shall be valid, as against the lien so created by said agreement of the party suing, with his attorney. Provided, that such agreement for fees shall be fair and reasonable. And, provided further, that this act shall not be construed as changing the law of this state, as now settled, in respect to champertous contracts.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 10, 1891.

No. 87, S.]

[Published April 17, 1891.

CHAPTER 205.

AN ACT to provide for the purchase and distribution of Sanborn and Berryman's annotated statutes, and to appropriate money therefor.

Recital of facts.

WHEREAS, The legislature of 1889, authorized Messrs. Sanborn and Berryman to prepare and publish, or cause to be published, the public laws

of the state of Wisconsin, in force at the close of the session, of that legislature, and made such statutes *prima facie* evidence in all courts and proceedings of whatever nature; and

WHEREAS, Such compilation has been made in a manner which has met with the approval of the bench and bar, and the general public, and so as to be of great use to all public officers; and

WHEREAS, The need of the revision of the laws has, by reason of the compilation of the annotated statutes, been made unnecessary, whereby a large sum of money has been or will be saved to the state, and the state can purchase the same cheaper than the towns and counties can do, upon separate orders; therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The superintendent of public property is hereby directed to purchase of the publishers of the annotated statutes of Wisconsin, a sufficient number of copies thereof to supply one to each state institution, to the judge or justice of each court of record and to the clerk of each circuit court for the use of such court, to each county clerk, for the use of the county officers, sheriff, district attorney, and one copy for each town clerk, for use of board of supervisors, each city clerk for use of common council, and each clerk of incorporated villages for use of village board; provided, that the cost per copy of said statutes, delivered in the city of Madison, shall not exceed four dollars and fifty cents per volume; and that the same shall be printed and bound in substantially the same style as the copies thereof now in the state library.

SECTION 2. When received by him, the superintendent of public property, shall forward such of said statutes as are for the use of county, city, village and town officers, to the county clerk of the proper county, in the manner now provided by law for the distribution of the laws; and said clerk shall distribute said statutes to the officers for whom their purchase is herein directed. The statutes which shall be purchased pursuant to this act, for such judges as are not county judges, and for the state institutions, shall be

Annotated
statutes of
Wisconsin to
be purchased.

Who entitled to
same.

How distributed.

forwarded by said superintendent to such judge and institution at the expense of the state. All provisions of law, now in force concerning the stamping of the revised statutes and their delivery, to the successors in office of the officers who shall receive the annotated statutes pursuant to this act, shall apply to the last mentioned statutes, and any liability imposed by law for failure to so deliver the revised statutes, shall attach for like neglect to deliver the annotated statutes.

Appropriation.

SECTION 3. There is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, a sum of money sufficient to pay for the statutes which are herein directed to be purchased, and also a sum sufficient to pay for the copies of the annotated statutes furnished the legislature, pursuant to joint resolution, No. 3, S., the price of the copies so furnished not to exceed the sum fixed in section 1, of this act. The amount required to pay for the copies which are to be procured under this act shall be paid on the warrant of the secretary of state, which shall be drawn on the certificate of the superintendent of public property to the effect that the number of volumes required to satisfy this act have been received by him. The sum required to pay for the copies furnished the legislature, as aforesaid, shall be payable on the filing of a sworn account thereof, and its approval by the superintendent of public property and the governor.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved April 13, 1891.