

than five hundred *twenty-five* dollars nor more than one thousand two hundred fifty dollars per annum; and for all other employes such average annual earnings shall be taken at not less than * * * *five hundred twenty-five* dollars nor more than * * * *eleven hundred twenty-five* dollars. Between said limits such average annual earnings shall be determined as follows:

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect September 1, 1919.

Approved July 29, 1919.

No. 532, A.]

[Published Aug. 2, 1919.

CHAPTER 693.

AN ACT to create section 1458—11 of the statutes, relating to rural planning.

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 1458—11. 1. There is created in the department of agriculture a division of rural planning. Such division shall be in charge of the commissioner of agriculture.

2. "Rural planning" as used in this section means planning for the health, general welfare, and amenity of the settler; planning for the establishment of the best possible transportation facilities; planning for the creation and development of the most logical community centers where country people can come together for social and business relation; planning for the setting aside of country parks, recreation fields, county fairgrounds, community woodlands, places of local and historic interest, and for the reservation of land for public uses along river fronts, lake shores, fine outlooks from hilltops, and for the preservation of our native landscape.

3. It shall be the duty of the commissioner: (a) To stimulate interest and disseminate information in the various counties along lines of rural planning; (b) To co-operate with county rural planning committees in carrying out their several duties as provided by subsection 5 of this section; (c) To co-operate with the director of immigration in planning land settlement and colonization projects.

4. In each county there shall be a county rural planning committee. Such committee shall consist of the chairman of the county board, the chairman of the county state road and bridge committee, and the county superintendent of schools, ex officio members, and two others, either men or women, to be appointed

by such ex officio members. The chairman of the county board shall be chairman of such committee, and in counties having more than one superintendent of schools, the superintendent to serve on such committee shall be designated by the chairman of the county board.

5. Within sixty days after the passage and publication of this act, the ex officio members of such committee shall meet and appoint the balance of the committee, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of four years, and thereafter one shall be appointed every four years for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified. All terms for appointed members shall expire on July first, and vacancies in the office of appointed members shall be filled for the unexpired term by such committee.

6. Elected members shall be freeholders of the county and have a general interest in and knowledge of rural planning. All members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed by the county for their actual and necessary expenses incurred while acting as members of such committee.

7. It shall be the duty of the rural county planning committee:

(a) To keep itself informed of the progress of rural planning in this and other countries.

(b) To report to the county, town or village boards upon the architectural design of any public building or bridge, the geographical location of community centers, the location or design of any statue or memorial, works of art and mural decorations in public buildings when such are proposed, to the end that such matters may be made in the highest degree effective, permanent, dignified and fitting through proper design, form and situation.

(c) To advise regarding the planting and protection of trees, shrubs and flowers along all highways within the county to the end that they shall be so located as not to interfere with the maintenance of said highway, and that only trees, shrubs and flowers native to Wisconsin be used for this purpose.

(d) To consider and provide for the establishment of community parks and woodlands, proportioned and situated so as to provide ample and equal facilities for the residents of the county.

(e) To propose to the county board the setting aside of places of historic interest and the protection and preservation of unique and picturesque scenery along rivers, lakes and streams, or other scenery or features remarkable, to the end that they may be continued and preserved.

8. No action by the county board involving the expenditure of funds, which action concerns rural planning shall be legal or

binding until it has been referred to the county rural planning committee and the recommendations of such committee accepted or rejected by such board. The county board may call upon such committee to report with recommendations upon any matter relating to rural planning, and such committee shall make its report within thirty days after such request is made unless a longer or shorter period is specified. But such committee may at any time, on its own motion, make recommendations on any phase of rural planning to the county board.

9. Such committee with the consent of the county board may appoint as secretary a person of skill and experience in rural development and may with the consent of such board employ consulting rural planning experts for the making of plans or maps of the county or any portion thereof showing location, design or treatment of proposed projects referred to in this section, as occasion may require.

10. Any county in which there does not exist a county park commission acting through its rural planning committee may acquire by gift, grant, devise, donation, or purchase, condemnation or otherwise, with the consent of the county board, a sufficient tract or tracts of land for the reservation for public use or river fronts, lake shores, picnic groves, outlook points from hill-tops, places of special historic interest, memorial grounds, parks, playgrounds, sites for public buildings, and reservations in and about and along and leading to any or all of the same, and to develop and maintain the same for public use.

11. Such committee shall work out plans to enforce the state law prohibiting dumping of tin cans and rubbish along highways.

12. The state department of agriculture, the state department of engineering, the state conservation commission and the agricultural extension division of the university of Wisconsin shall co-operate with the commissioner of rural planning and the several county rural planning committees in carrying out the provisions of this section.

13. Any county wherein there exists a county park board shall not create a county rural planning committee but in such county the county park board shall exercise and be possessed of all the powers and duties imposed upon the county rural planning committee by this section.

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

Approved July 30, 1919.