

amount of his grant computed on his last monthly grant subject to rules and regulations of the state department of public welfare, provided such prorated amount is \$10 or more, so as to pay the claims in the manner provided in this section. Counties shall be reimbursed by the state for grants made pursuant to this paragraph in the manner provided by section 49.38 from the appropriation provided by section 20.18 (5a).

SECTION 2. 20.18 (5a) of the statutes is created to read:

20.18 (5a) OLD-AGE PENSIONERS. For aid to counties a sum sufficient to be allotted as provided in sections 49.26 (8).

Approved August 17, 1945.

No. 594, A.]

[Published August 24, 1945.

CHAPTER 563.

AN ACT to repeal 29.577 (11); to amend 29.577 (1) to (9), 70.425 (1) and 343.421; and to repeal and recreate 29.579 of the statutes, relating to fur animal farms, mink and fox farms, occupational tax on mink, trespass on fur farms, and defining fur bearing animals raised in captivity as domestic animals.

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

SECTION 1. 29.577 (1) to (9) of the statutes are amended to read:

29.577 (1) The owner or lessee of any lands within the state of Wisconsin suitable for the breeding and propagating of * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk shall have the right upon complying with the provisions of this section to establish, operate and maintain on such lands * * * an otter, * * * raccoon or skunk farm, for the purpose of breeding, propagating, trapping and dealing in * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk.

(2) Such owner or lessee desiring to establish, operate and maintain * * * an otter, * * * raccoon or skunk farm in conformity with this section, shall file with the conservation commission a verified declaration, describing the lands which such applicant for a license desires to use for the purpose of breeding and propagating * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk, and setting forth also the title or leasehold of the applicant and the number of acres embraced in said tract. He shall also

set forth the number of * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk in his possession, and that he obtained them in a lawful manner.

(3) Upon the filing of such declaration the conservation commission shall forthwith investigate the same and may require the applicant to produce satisfactory evidence of the facts therein stated. If upon such examination it shall appear that the applicant is the owner or lessee of said lands, and that the applicant intends in good faith to establish, operate and maintain * * * an otter, * * * raccoon or skunk farm, the commission shall issue a license to the applicant describing such lands and certifying that the licensee is lawfully entitled to use the same for the breeding, propagating, trapping and dealing in of * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk thereon.

(4) When such license has been granted the licensee shall become the owner of all the * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk on said lands and of all their offspring remaining thereon. He shall have the right to manage and control said lands and the * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunks thereon, to take and trap the same at any time or in any manner which he sees fit and deems to the best advantage of his business, and to sell and transport at any time said * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk or the pelts taken from them. All such pelts so transported shall be tagged with a tag to be furnished by the conservation commission to the licensee at cost, not exceeding one cent each. Such tags shall be numbered to correspond with the number of the license held by the licensee.

(5) The holder of any such license shall pay an annual license fee of \$2.50 for any such farm of 10 acres or under, and an additional fee of 25 cents per acre for any additional land actually devoted to * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk farming.

(6) Within 30 days after the date of the issuance of any such license the licensee shall erect posts or stakes at intervals of not more than 20 rods along the boundary of the lands embraced in said license, wherever the same are not already inclosed, and shall post and maintain upon said posts, stakes or other inclosures at intervals of not more than 20 rods notices furnished by the conservation commission proclaiming the establishment of * * * an otter, * * * raccoon or skunk farm. For such notices the licensee shall pay to the conservation commission the sum of 12 cents each.

(7) Such license shall be prima facie evidence in all courts and proceedings of the lawful right of the licensee therein named, his or its successors or assigns, for the term of the license, to establish and operate * * * an otter, * * * raccoon or skunk farm upon said premises, and shall entitle the licensee therein named or his successors or assigns, to the exclusive right for and during said term to breed and propagate * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk thereon, and to the exclusive and sole ownership of any property in all * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk caught or taken therefrom. Such licenses shall expire on December 31 of each year, but may be renewed from year to year upon payment by the licensee of the annual license fee.

(8) Any person other than the licensee or his agents who shall hunt or trap * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk upon any lands described in any such license, shall be liable to the licensee in the sum of \$25 in addition to all damage which he may do to said farm or to the * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk and property thereon, but all actions for such trespass shall be brought by such licensee.

(9) On or about March 1 of each year, each such licensee shall make a report, verified by affidavit, to the conservation commission, covering the period from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year, upon blanks furnished by the commission, stating the number of his license and the total number and value of * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk killed, transported or sold from said * * * otter, * * * raccoon or skunk farm, and such other information as the commission may require.

SECTION 2. 29.577 (11) of the statutes is repealed.

SECTION 3. 29.579 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

29.579 DOMESTIC FUR BEARING ANIMALS. The breeding, raising and producing in captivity, and marketing of foxes, fitch, nutria, marten, fisher, mink, chinchilla, rabbit or caracul, shall be deemed an agricultural pursuit, and all such animals so raised in captivity or lawfully taken, shall be deemed domestic animals, subject to all the laws of the state with reference to possession, ownership and taxation as are at any time applicable to domestic animals.

SECTION 4. 70.425 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

70.425 (1) There is imposed an annual occupational tax on every person, firm or corporation owning or operating any

domestic mink farm, * * * computed on the basis of \$2.50 for each such farm, which tax shall be in addition to all other taxes.

SECTION 5. 343.421 of the statutes is amended to read:

343.421 (1) Any person owning or breeding silver, silver black, black foxes, or *mutations thereof*, or mink which have been raised in captivity * * * shall have the same property rights therein as enjoyed by owners or breeders of domestic animals.

(2) Whenever the owner of any premises upon which silver, silver black, black foxes, or *mutations thereof*, or mink which have been raised in captivity * * * are being bred or raised shall maintain large sign boards with the following inscription painted in large letters on the side facing from the inclosure: * * * "*Fur Farm - Keep Out*" in such manner and size as to be legible for a distance of 100 feet, at points not more than 200 feet apart, along the boundary lines of such premises, no person, without the consent of such owner, shall enter upon such premises and approach within a distance of 150 yards from any point of an outer fence or inclosure within which the dens or pens of such animals are located. *Maintenance of signs herein provided, shall not be construed as posting, nor prevent recovery of damages, under section 29.596.* Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be fined not more than \$200, or by imprisonment in the county jail not more than 6 months.

(3) No person, without the permission of the owner of an inclosure within which silver, silver black, black foxes, or *mutations thereof*, or mink which have been raised in captivity * * * are kept for breeding purposes, shall enter such inclosures. Any person violating the provisions of this subsection shall be fined not more than \$200 or be imprisoned in the county jail not more than 6 months.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1945.

Approved August 17, 1945.