

No. 639, A.

Published June 10, 1964.
Section 2 is effective
July 1, 1964; the remainder
is effective June 11, 1964.

CHAPTER 569

AN ACT to amend 245.15; and to create 20.435, 245.32 and 245.33 of the statutes, relating to marriage license fees, and to the creation of a state advisory council for home and family and making an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. 20.435 of the statutes is created to read:

20.435 HOME AND FAMILY, STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR.

(1) ADMINISTRATION. Annually, beginning July 1, 1964, there is appropriated from the general fund to the state advisory council for home and family, \$24,000 to carry out the functions set forth in s. 245.33.

SECTION 2. 245.15 of the statutes is amended to read:

245.15 Each county clerk shall receive as a fee for each license granted, the sum of * * * \$4, of which \$3 shall become a part of the funds of the

county * * * and \$1 shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the appropriation made by s. 20.435 to be used to carry out the functions of the state advisory council for home and family. The clerk shall also receive a notary fee which may be retained by * * * him if operating on a fee or part fee basis, but which otherwise shall become part of the funds of the county.

SECTION 3. 245.32 of the statutes is created to read:

245.32 DECLARATION OF PUBLIC POLICY. It is declared that the provisions of s. 245.33 are made necessary by critical conditions and trends seriously affecting the family life of many of our citizens and tending to endanger the public welfare, health, and morals, and the peace and security of the people of the state. Such conditions and trends are reflected by: (1) State department of public welfare statistics indicating that over \$10,000,000 in public funds are expended annually to support families which have become indigent because of marital disruption; (2) Nationwide surveys showing that 50 percent of our juvenile delinquents come from broken homes; and (3) Prison studies revealing that divorced persons have a higher rate of criminal violations than do married persons.

SECTION 4. 245.33 of the statutes is created to read:

245.33 HOME AND FAMILY, STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR.

(1) CREATION. The state advisory council for home and family, hereinafter referred to as the advisory council, is created.

(2) COMPOSITION. The advisory council shall consist of 16 members appointed by the joint legislative council as hereinafter specified for terms of 2 years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Each member shall be a resident of the state who has demonstrated a special and continuing interest in family problems and their solution. The advisory council shall be composed of the chairmen of the senate and assembly public welfare and judiciary committees or a member of each such committee designated by the chairman thereof to serve in his place, 2 judges who preside over family court branches, 3 clergymen, 2 practicing attorneys, one trained sociologist or one college instructor with a rank of not less than assistant professor, one family court commissioner or assistant commissioner, one county corporation counsel or assistant counsel, one county public welfare director or assistant director, and one representative of a voluntary social welfare agency. Appointments shall be made in accordance with the foregoing requirements and successors shall be appointed in like manner.

(3) ORGANIZATION. The advisory council shall meet in the first weeks of July and October, 1964, and thereafter in the first weeks of January, April, July and October of each succeeding year, and may meet at such other times as the members determine or the chairman directs. Annually, it shall elect from its membership a chairman, vice chairman and secretary. A majority of the committee shall constitute a quorum. Each member shall take and file the official oath. Members of the advisory council shall receive no compensation, but each member shall be entitled to his actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his duties. The advisory council may appoint consulting committees consisting of nonmembers, the appointees of which shall also receive their actual and necessary expenses. All expense accounts shall be paid by the department of administration on certification by the chairman or acting chairman.

(4) FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The advisory council shall:

(a) Study the scope and operation of the laws of this state and surrounding states relating to marriage, actions affecting marriages, and support of children and other dependents, examine recent supreme court

decisions affecting the same, and report annually to the legislative council, and also to the legislature when in session, its findings and recommendations and actions taken thereon. Such findings shall include all vital facts and statistics that the advisory council deems necessary and useful, relating to marriages and actions affecting marriage in each county of this state, to be compiled with the co-operation of the state registrar of vital statistics, the state legislative and judicial councils, the state director of public welfare, the county clerk and family court commissioner of each county, and the clerk of every court having jurisdiction over actions affecting marriage.

(b) Study the causes of family disintegration, and examine the need for future publicly and privately sponsored programs, activities, services and facilities which would tend to preserve and promote family unity and wholesome family life with particular emphasis on premarital counseling and the prevention of divorce.

(c) Investigate the effect of divorce on public welfare costs and programs, and make recommendations to improve marital stability and accomplish changes in such programs which could bring about a decrease in the number of divorces in this state involving likely welfare recipients and an eventual reduction in welfare costs.

(d) Have authority to conduct public hearings within the state.

(e) Employ such staff as is necessary to implement the duties assigned to it, within the limits of the appropriation under s. 20.435, to be appointed outside the classified service and to continue in their respective positions at the pleasure of the advisory council.

(5) CONSULTANTS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL. The judicial council, state director of public welfare, revisor of statutes and registrar of vital statistics may furnish consultants from their respective staffs to advise and assist the advisory council in the performance of its functions.

SECTION 5. SECTION 2 shall take effect July 1, 1964.

Approved May 28, 1964.