

No. 100, S.]

[Published May 7, 1901.]

CHAPTER 288.

AN ACT to provide for the establishment and maintenance of county schools of agriculture and domestic economy and making an appropriation therefor.

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

What counties may build; appropriations for. SECTION 1. The county board of any county is hereby authorized to appropriate money for the organization, equipment, and maintenance of a county school of agriculture and domestic economy. The county boards of two or more counties may unite in establishing such a school, and may appropriate money for its organization, equipment, and maintenance.

Board for, how appointed; vacancies on; oath of members; organization. SECTION 2. A board to be known as the county school board is hereby created, which shall have charge and control of all matters pertaining to the organization, equipment, and maintenance of such school, except as otherwise provided by law. Said board shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be the county superintendent of schools of the county or district, in which the school is located. The other members of the board shall be elected by the county board, for the term of three years from the date of their election, "but no member of the county board shall be eligible." Vacancies existing in the board from whatever cause, except in the case of the county superintendent, shall be filled by appointment made by the chairman of the county board, if the county board is not in session when such vacancy occurs. If the county board is in session, vacancies shall be filled by election by said board for the unexpired term. Appointments made by the chairman of the county board, as hereinbefore specified, shall be for the term to elapse until the next regular meeting of the county board. Each person appointed or created a member of the county school board, shall within ten days after the notice of such appointment, take and subscribe an oath, to support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of Wisconsin, and honestly, faithfully, and impartially to discharge his duties as a member of said board, to the best of his ability, which oath shall be filed in the

office of the county clerk. He shall also, within the same time, file a bond in such sum as may be fixed by the county board, which bond shall be filed in the office of the county clerk. Within fifteen days after the appointment of said board, the members thereof shall meet and organize by electing one of their number as president. The county superintendent of schools shall be ex-officio secretary of the said board. The said board shall prescribe the duties of the several officers, except as fixed by law.

When two or more counties unite. SECTION 3. Whenever two or more counties unite in establishing such a school, the provisions of section 2 of this act shall apply to the organization of the county school board, and to filling vacancies therein, provided that the county superintendent of the county in which the school is located shall be a member of the board and ex-officio its secretary, and two members shall also be elected from each county by the county board thereof. "But no member of the county board shall be eligible."

Apportionment of amounts for maintenance. SECTION 4. Whenever two or more counties unite in establishing and maintaining such school, the county school board provided for in such cases shall determine the amount of money necessary for the equipment and maintenance of the school for the second year, and annually each year thereafter; they shall apportion the amount to be raised by taxation among the counties in proportion to the assessed valuation of each county, as last fixed by the state board of assessment, and shall report to the county clerk of each county the apportionment so made on or before the first Monday of November in each year. The amount so apportioned to each county shall be levied in the county tax for the ensuing year for the support of the school.

County treasurer ex-officio treasurer of board. SECTION 5. "The county treasurer shall be ex-officio treasurer of said board;" all moneys appropriated and expended under the provisions of this act, shall be expended by the county school board, and shall be paid by the county treasurer or treasurers on orders issued by said board, "and all moneys received by said board shall be paid to the county treasurer for the fund of the county school board."

Courses of study. SECTION 6. In all county schools of agriculture and domestic economy organized under the provisions of this act, instruction shall be given in the elements of agriculture, including instruction concerning the soil, the plant life, and the animal life of the farm; a system of farm accounts shall

also be taught; instruction shall also be given in manual training and domestic economy, and such other subjects as may be prescribed.

Land to be had in connection. SECTION 7. Each such school shall have connected with it a tract of land suitable for purposes of experiment and demonstration, and not less than "three" acres in area.

Schools to be free; special instruction. SECTION 8. The schools organized under the provisions of this act shall be free to inhabitants of the county or counties contributing to their support, who shall be qualified to pursue the course of study, provided they shall have at least the qualifications required for completion of the course of study for common schools. Whenever students of advanced age desire admission to the school during the winter months in sufficient number to warrant the organization of special classes for their instruction, such classes shall be organized and continued for such time as their attendance may make necessary.

Duty of state superintendent. SECTION 9. The state superintendent shall give such information and assistance and establish such requirements as may seem necessary for the proper organization and maintenance of such schools. With the advice of the dean of the college of agriculture of the state university, he shall prescribe the courses of study to be pursued, and determine the qualifications required of teachers employed in such schools. He shall have the general supervision of all schools established under this act; shall from time to time inspect the same, make such recommendations relating to their management as he may deem necessary, and make such report thereon as shall give full information concerning their number, character and efficiency.

State aid for, how obtained. SECTION 10. Any school established under the provisions of this act, whose courses of study and the qualifications of whose teachers have been approved by the state superintendent and the dean of the college of agriculture, may upon applications, be placed upon an approved list of county schools of agriculture and domestic economy. A school once entered upon such list may remain listed and be entitled to state aid so long as the scope and character of its work are maintained in such manner as to meet the approval of the state superintendent; provided that he shall not place upon said list more than two schools. On the first day of July in each year, the secretary of each county school board maintaining a school

on the approved list, shall report to the state superintendent, setting forth the facts relating to the cost of maintaining the school, the character of the work done, the number and names of teachers employed and such other matters as may be required by the county board or the state superintendent. Upon the receipt of such report, if it shall appear that the school has been maintained in a satisfactory manner for a period of not less than eight months, during the year closing on the thirtieth day of the preceding June, the said superintendent shall make a certificate to that effect and file it with the secretary of state. Upon receiving such certificate, the secretary of state shall draw his warrant, payable to the treasurer of the county maintaining such school, for a sum equal to one-half the amount actually expended for instruction in such school during the year; when more than one county has contributed to the support of the school, the secretary of state shall draw his warrant payable to the treasurer of each county for such a portion of the state aid as the amount contributed by his county is part of the total amount contributed by all the counties for the support of the school for the preceding year; provided, that the total amount so apportioned shall not exceed five thousand dollars in any year, and if such sum shall be less than half the aggregate amount expended for instruction in both schools, it shall be divided equally between them. The secretary of state shall annually include and apportion in the state tax such sum as shall have been so paid.

Appropriation for state aid. SECTION 11. There is hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum sufficient to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

SECTION 12. This act shall take effect and be in force, from and after its passage and publication.

Approved May 4th, 1901.