

No. 406, S.]

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CHAPTER 435.

AN ACT to provide for the appointment of five commissioners who shall furnish to the next legislature information concerning the volume of legal business in the several judicial circuits of the state, and who shall report to said legislature a bill to re-district the state into judicial circuits comprising such territory in each as will equalize, as nearly as may be, the labors of the judges thereof.

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

Commissioners; report to contain what. SECTION 1. The supreme court of the state is hereby authorized and requested to appoint, on or before the first day of August next, five competent persons as commissioners to ascertain and report to the next legislature the average duration per annum during the three years next preceding the first day of September, A. D. 1904, of the public sessions of the circuit court in each county of the state and showing the aggregate number of days of such employment by each circuit judge in each county and in his entire circuit, the number of actions heard and determined and such further facts concerning the time reasonably and necessarily consumed by each circuit judge in chambers or otherwise in the performance of his official duties, as to said commissioners shall appear relevant to the said inquiry.

Report filed, when; vacancy, how filled. SECTION 2. The said commissioners shall make their said report and file the same with the clerk of said court, on or before the first day of December, A. D. 1904. In case any of said commissioners shall before the completion of their said report, die, resign or otherwise become incapacitated to act, the vacancy so created in said commission shall be filled by appointment by the said court.

Duty of clerk and stenographer; judge to certify. SECTION 3. It is hereby made the duty of the clerk of the circuit court in each county, and of each official stenographer of said court

in each circuit, to prepare and certify to said commission such information and statistics as the commission may call for; which information and statistics shall also be certified by the proper circuit judge, upon information and belief, or upon actual knowledge, as the case may be, to be true and correct.

Duty of commission. SECTION 4. The said commission is hereby required to prepare and file with its said report a bill to be presented to the next legislature re-districting the state into judicial circuits in a manner that will, as far as practicable, equalize the labors of the several judges thereof.

No compensation for commissioners except expenses. SECTION 5. The commissioners shall be paid no compensation for their services, but their traveling and other necessary expenses, including clerk hire, incurred in and about the services hereby enjoined, shall be paid out of the state treasury after being audited and allowed by the secretary of state, who shall thereupon draw his warrant on the state treasurer in favor of the respective commissioners according to the amount allowed to each. Provided, that the sum incurred for clerk hire shall not exceed two hundred dollars.

Report and bill to be presented to judiciary committee. SECTION 6. The clerk of said court shall present said report and bill to the judiciary committee of either the assembly or the senate of the next legislature. The judiciary committee receiving said report and bill shall act upon the same according to law as in the case of a bill introduced and referred to such committee.

Printing and distribution of report. SECTION 7. The said commission shall procure to be printed by the state printer at the expense of the state, in pamphlet form, an edition of two thousand copies immediately after the first day of December, A. D. 1904. Such edition, when printed, shall be deposited with the superintendent of public property who shall immediately distribute the same to the several clerks of the circuit courts in proportion to the population of the several counties.

SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved May 22, 1903.