

CHAPTER 108—S. F. No. 437.

An act to amend Section 3879, General Statutes 1913, relating to external fire escapes and fire protection in buildings where persons are employed.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Fire escapes—Counter balance stairs—Care of fire escapes and surrounding property—Automatic sprinklers to be considered.—Section 3879, General Statutes 1913, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3879. If any such building where persons are employed be more than two stories high, it shall be the duty of the owner of such building to provide at least one fire escape, and as many more as the labor commissioner may require, not exceeding one additional escape for every one hundred persons employed above the first floor. Every such fire escape shall be on the outside of the building, connecting on each floor above the first with at least two openings; shall be well fastened and secured, with landings not less than six feet in length and three in width; guarded by an iron railing not less than three feet in height. Such landings shall be connected by iron stairs, not less than two feet wide, and with steps of not less than six-inch treads, placed at an angle of not more than forty-five degrees, and protected by a well-secured hand rail on both sides, with a *counterbalanced stair*, two feet wide, reaching from the lower platform to the ground. Such fire escape shall be sufficient if constructed on any other plan approved by the labor commissioner. The openings to each fire escape shall be as far as practicable from the stairways and elevator shafts, and the ladder of each fire escape shall extend to the roof. Stationary stairs or ladders shall also be provided on the inside from the upper story to the roof. All doors opening onto a fire escape shall be metal covered, and all glass used in doors or windows above the first floor opening onto a fire escape or directly under a fire escape shall be wire glass set in metal frames. *Such fire escape shall be kept free of snow, ice and all other obstructions.* A suitable disposition shall be made of all inflammable articles and suitable waste cans or barrels shall be provided for the proper handling of sweepings, oily waste or other incombustible material as directed by the labor commissioner. *Such inflammable waste and materials shall be removed from the workrooms each day and not permitted to accumulate.* Each factory, mill and work shop more than two stories high shall also be provided with inside and outside standpipes, and with hose connected therewith, as required in the case of hotels of the same height, and with chemical fire extinguishers or pails of water or sand on each floor, always ready for use. *Provided, that when a building is equipped with an auto-*

matic sprinkler system, installed in accordance with the rules of the board of fire underwriters, inside standpipes or other extinguishing apparatus shall only be required when deemed necessary by the commissioner of labor.

Approved March 27, 1919.

CHAPTER 109—S. F. No. 438.

An act to amend Section 3816, General Statutes 1913, relating to examinations for positions in the Department of Labor and Industries, the same being Section 5, Chapter 518, General Laws of 1913, an act creating the Department of Labor and Industries.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Examinations and promotions in labor department.—Section 3816, General Statutes 1913, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 3816. The board of examiners shall provide suitable lists of questions for such examinations which shall be submitted to the applicants in such manner as the board may determine; and a list shall be made of the successful applicants, from which list the labor commissioner shall make selections for the positions above named.

The board also may certify, for promotion or transfer to another position, with or without a competitive examination, any employe who has demonstrated his competency to the satisfaction of the board.

The board of examiners shall convene *annually* for the purpose of holding *examinations* on or before the last Monday in June. Special examinations may be held by the board upon the written request of the labor commissioner. Any person who shall pass such examinations shall be eligible to appointment at any time within *two years* from the date of his examination; provided, he shall remain morally, mentally and physically fit. Thirty (30) days' notice, signed by the secretary of the board, of any examination held under the provisions of this act, shall be given by one publication in one daily newspaper, in the cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth, and such notice shall state the time and place thereof and in general terms the subject-matter upon which the applicants will be examined. All examinations shall be held in the city of St. Paul at some suitable place therein to be fixed by the board. *If at any time there be an insufficient number of eligibles the commissioner shall have authority to temporarily fill a vacancy or vacancies, such appointment to hold until such list of eligibles has been sufficiently replenished, but not to exceed three*