

CHAPTER 284—H. F. No. 413.

An act establishing the Minnesota War Records Commission; providing for the compilation of records and the collection of materials relating to the participation of the state and its citizens in the world war, and for the preparation, publication, and distribution of a memorial record and history of Minnesota's part in the war; and appropriating money for carrying out the provisions of this act.

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

Section 1. Minnesota war records commission established.—There is hereby established the Minnesota war records commission to be composed of the president of the Minnesota Historical Society, the chairman of the department of history of the University of Minnesota, the adjutant general of the state, the state superintendent of education, and five other citizens of the state to be appointed by the governor. As soon as may be after the passage of this act the commission shall meet at the call of the president of the Minnesota Historical Society and shall organize by electing a chairman from its membership and by appointing a secretary who shall be the executive officer of the commission. The members of the commission shall not receive any compensation for their services as such, but shall be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses in the performance of their official duties.

Sec. 2. Duties of commission.—It shall be the duty of the said Minnesota war records commission to provide for the collection and preservation in state and local war records collections of all available material relating to Minnesota's participation in the world war; to procure, in co-operation with the adjutant general of the state, transcripts or abstracts of all available records of the United States war and navy departments relating to the services of citizens or residents of Minnesota or to the history of military or naval units composed largely of Minnesota men; and to provide for the compilation and preservation in the state war records collection of individual records of the service during the war of all citizens or residents of Minnesota in the military or naval forces of the state or of the United States or of any of the governments associated with the United States in the war, also of all citizens or residents of Minnesota engaged in non-military forms of war service with the armed forces of the United States or of the associated nations or conspicuously engaged in civilian war work.

Sec. 3. Publication of condensed narrative.—It shall be the further duty of the said commission to provide for the preparation and publication, as a permanent memorial record, of a comprehensive documentary and narrative history of the part played by the state in the world war, including conditions and events within the state relating to or affected by the war; and also for the preparation and publication of a condensed narrative of Minnesota's part

in the war suitable for distribution to the soldiers and sailors from the state in recognition of their services to the commonwealth.

Sec. 4. Distribution of publications.—Of the comprehensive history provided for in section three of this act eight hundred sets shall be available for distribution to public, college, and school libraries, institutions, and officials of the state under such rules and regulations as the said commission may prescribe, and two hundred sets shall be deposited with the Minnesota Historical Society to be available for exchange with libraries and institutions outside the state. Copies of the condensed narrative provided for in section three of this act shall be available for distribution, upon application therefor, to soldiers and sailors from the state who served during the war, or to their nearest relatives in case of decease, under such rules and regulations as the said commission may prescribe. All the publications herein provided for may be sold by the said commission at such price, not less than the cost of printing and binding, as it may determine; provided that the proceeds from such sales shall be turned in to the state treasury.

Sec. 5. Records to be deposited in library of State Historical Society.—The state war records collection assembled by the said commission shall be deposited in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society, and the said society is hereby designated as the official custodian of the collection; provided that the transcripts from the records of the United States war and navy departments relating to the services of individual soldiers and sailors shall be filed in the office of the adjutant general, although copies thereof may be made for the state war records collection.

Sec. 6. Authorized to appoint agents, etc.—The said commission shall have power to appoint such field agents, writers, editors, indexers, and other employees as may be necessary for carrying out the purposes of this act, and shall fix the compensation thereof; provided no obligations shall be incurred in excess of the sum appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act.

Sec. 7. Report to governor.—On or before February 1, 1921, the said commission shall present a report to the governor containing a statement of the progress of its work to January 1, 1921, together with plans and recommendations for the continuation and completion of the work, which report shall be transmitted by the governor to the legislature.

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

Approved April 17, 1919.