

## CHAPTER 47—H. F. No. 72.

*An act relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture and requiring him to investigate the cost of necessities of life.*

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

**Section 1. Commissioner of agriculture authorized to make investigations.**—The commissioner of agriculture is hereby empowered to investigate the prices of kerosene, gasoline, electricity and other things used for light, heat and power, and all common necessities of life, including food stuffs, clothing, shoes, building material, tools and implements, automobiles and repairs for same, coal and other fuel, paints, oils and farm machinery and automobile parts, and other commodities ordinarily regarded as essential to living, and to that end he may exercise the powers now conferred upon him by law with reference to the holding of hearings, compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, administering oaths and taking testimony.

**Sec. 2. Publication of reports.**—He may from time to time prepare and publish reports apportioning in detail the cost of production and the wholesale and retail cost of necessities of life investigated by him, so as to disclose the cost of production, the cost of distribution and the profits to each manufacturer, producer, dealer, wholesaler or retailer, of such necessities so investigated by him, and may at the same time prepare and publish prices deemed by him to be fair retail prices in any given locality, in order that the public may know whether or not excessive profits are being exacted by any person, firm, association or corporation producing or dealing in such necessities.

**Sec. 3. Other information.**—Said commissioner may from time to time, at his discretion, publish any other information obtained by him relative to the prices of the necessities of life as hereinbefore defined. Said reports shall be issued from time to time as the commissioner shall determine and a limited number shall be available for general distribution.

**Sec. 4. Violations to be reported to prosecuting officers.**—If, after an investigation, it appears to the commissioner that the laws of this state have been violated in any respect, said commissioner shall present all available information bearing upon such apparent violation to the proper law enforcing or prosecuting officer of the state of Minnesota, or of the United States. He shall prepare a report of his investigations and work under this act for submission to the 1921 regular session of the legislature, and shall make such recommendations for changes in existing laws or for additional legislation as appear necessary or desirable in order to bring about a reduction in the cost of the necessities of life as hereinbefore defined.

Sec. 5. To co-operate with federal authorities.—It shall be the duty of the commissioner to co-operate with and furnish to all federal authorities engaged in similar work all information which he attains from time to time, providing that the furnishing of such information will not materially interfere with the work being carried on by the commissioner.

Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved September 22, 1919.

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CHAPTER 48—H. F. No. 86.

*An act to appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for the year ending July 1, 1920, and twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the year ending July 1, 1921, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Drainage and Waters.*

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

Section 1. Appropriations for commissioner of drainage and waters.—There is hereby appropriated from any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be available during the fiscal year from the passage of this act, and ending 1920, and twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be available during the fiscal year of July 1, 1920, to July 1, 1921, to be expended under the direction and upon the order of the commissioner of drainage and waters as contemplated by the provisions of sections two (2) and three (3), of chapter four hundred seventy-one (471), Laws of 1919.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage for approval.

Approved September 22, 1919.

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CHAPTER 49—H. F. No. 103.

*An act to provide relief and assistance for certain officers, soldiers, sailors, marines, nurses, and the surviving wives of certain deceased officers, soldiers, sailors, marines and nurses, providing for issuance of certificates of indebtedness for the raising of necessary funds therefor, and for the retirement of the same by money raised from a tax levy provided therefor, and the creation of a board to issue such certificates and supervise the expenditure and disbursement of funds, and appropriating \$20,000,000.00 therefor, and making it a misdemeanor for any claimant to transfer or to attempt to transfer his right or claim and for any other person to acquire or to attempt to acquire any interest therein before the issuance of the auditor's warrant therefor.*