

CHAPTER 578—S. F. No. 1290.

An act creating an interim commission composed of house and senate members and the Commissioner of Conservation; authorizing and directing such commission to make a study and investigation of the problem of forfeited lands and tax delinquency and in respect to forest fire protection, management of state timber, afforestation and reforestation, establishment and maintenance of woodlots, windbreaks and shelter-belts throughout the state, tax remissions as an inducement for forest practices, that state appropriations needed in carrying out a long-time comprehensive forestry program and related matter pertaining to the development of an adequate state wide program; requiring such commission to make a report thereon with its recommendations to the Legislature at its next regular session; and appropriating money to defray expenses incurred pursuant to this act.

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

Section 1. Interim commission on forfeited lands.—There is hereby created an interim commission which shall consist of five members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker thereof, five members of the senate appointed by the president thereof, and the commissioner of conservation, all of whom shall be members of such commission until its report hereinafter mentioned shall have been made to and received by the legislature at the next regular session thereof. Said commission shall select from its members a chairman and vice-chairman, and may employ and pay a secretary who shall not be a legislative member of the commission. No member of the commission shall receive compensation for his services as such member; but all personal expenses of members of the commission reasonably necessary for carrying out the purposes of this act shall be paid as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. Duties of commission.—Such commission shall make a study and investigation of the problem of the use and disposition of lands which are forfeited to the state and of decreasing tax revenues to municipal units of government because of tax delinquency, and in respect to forest fire protection, the management of state timber, afforestation and reforestation, establishment and maintenance of woodlots, windbreaks and shelterbelts throughout the state, tax remissions as an inducement for forest practices, state appropriations needed in carrying out a long-time comprehensive forestry program and related matter pertaining to the development of an adequate state wide program as will enable the commission to fully report and make its recommendations.

For any of such purposes the commission shall have power to issue subpoenas or like process requiring the attendance and

testimony of witnesses and the production of books and documents before the commission, or any member thereof, at any time and place designated by the commission; and, upon application by the commission the district court shall punish as for a contempt of court any person who refuses to respond to such subpoena or process within the county or judicial district where such application is made. All witnesses shall be paid by the commission the same fees and mileage required by law to be paid to witnesses in civil actions in the district court; but such fees need not be paid in advance unless so ordered by the commission.

The commission is further vested with full power and authority to employ expert and clerical aid or assistance; to purchase stationery and other supplies; to rent or otherwise provide for the use of offices and equipment; and to do any and all other things reasonably necessary or convenient in carrying out the purposes of this act.

Sec. 3. Report of commission.—The commission shall make a report at the opening of the next regular session of the legislature, embodying the results of the study and investigation made pursuant to this act, setting forth all data and information in connection therewith which the commission deems of importance to the legislature; and containing all recommendations which the commission deems proper in respect to legislation concerning any and every matter covered by said report.

Sec. 4. Appropriation.—There is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of \$5,000.00, or so much thereof as may be necessary to pay all expenses incurred pursuant to this act. For the payment of such expenses the commission shall draw its warrants upon the state treasurer, which warrants shall be signed by the chairman or vice-chairman and attested by the secretary of the commission; and the state auditor shall then approve and the state treasurer shall pay such warrants as and when presented, but not exceeding in the aggregate the amount herein appropriated. A general summary or statement of expenses so incurred and paid shall be included in the above mentioned report of the commission to the legislature.

Approved April 22, 1943.

CHAPTER 579—S. F. No. 124.

(AMENDING SECTION 327.09 MINNESOTA STATUTES 1941.)

An act relating to equal rights of persons; amending Mason's Minnesota Statutes of 1927, Section 7321.