

traveling expenses, necessarily incurred in the discharge of his duties if funds are available therefor.

The supervisors may employ a secretary, technical experts, and such other officers, agents, and employees, permanent and temporary, as they may require, and shall determine their qualifications, duties, and compensation. The county attorney of the district in which the major portion of said soil conservation district is located, shall be the attorney for said district, and the supervisors thereof, and the said supervisors may call upon said attorney for the necessary legal counsel and advice and service. The supervisors may delegate to their chairman, to one or more supervisors, or to one or more agents, or employees such powers and duties as they may deem proper. The supervisors shall furnish to the State soil conservation committee, upon request, copies of such ordinances, rules, regulations, orders, contracts, forms, and other documents as they shall adopt or employ, and such other information concerning their activities as it may require in the performance of its duties under this act.

The supervisors shall provide for the execution of surety bonds for all employees and officers who shall be entrusted with funds or property; shall provide for the keeping of a full and accurate record of all proceedings and of all resolutions, regulations, and orders issued or adopted; the State Comptroller shall annually audit the books of said soil conservation district and its supervisors. Any supervisor may be removed by the State soil conservation committee upon notice and hearing, for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office, but for no other reason.

The supervisors may invite the legislative body of any municipality or county located near the territory comprised within the district to designate a representative to advise and consult with the supervisors of the district on all questions of program and policy which may affect the property, water supply, or other interests of such municipality or county.

Approved March 12, 1945.

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CHAPTER 96—H. F. No. 441

*An act relating to veterans service officers, providing for their appointment and maintenance, and prescribing their duties.*

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

**Section 1. Veterans service officers; appointment; compensation.** Subdivision 1. The county board of any county may appoint a veterans service officer and provide necessary clerical help, office space, equipment and supplies for him; and may appoint one or more assistant veterans service officers who shall have the qualifications prescribed in Section 2, Subdivision 1. The assistant veterans service officer may exercise all the powers, and shall perform the duties, of the veterans service officer, subject to his direction and control, and shall be subject to all the provisions hereof relating to a veterans service officer. Every county officer and agency shall cooperate with the veterans service officer and shall provide him with information necessary in connection with the performance of his duties.

Subd. 2. Except as otherwise prescribed in this act, the term of appointment of a veterans service officer appointed pursuant to this section shall be two years unless removed for cause upon written charges and after a hearing thereon.

Subd. 3. Except as otherwise prescribed in this act, the county board shall fix the compensation of the veterans service officer and assistant veterans service officers which shall be paid in the same manner and at the same time as the county officers.

**Sec. 2. Qualification.** Subdivision 1. No person shall be appointed a veterans service officer under this act unless he has the following qualifications:

(1) Residence in the State of Minnesota for at least five years prior to his appointment;

(2) Citizenship in the United States;

(3) Service in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during a time when a state of war shall have been declared to exist by the Congress of the United States and an honorable discharge from such service or other form of release by proper authority indicating that his military or naval service was satisfactory;

(4) Education and training for the duties of veterans service officer;

(5) Knowledge of the law and the regulations and rulings of the United States Veterans Administration applicable to cases before it and the administration thereof.

**Sec. 3. Joint action by two or more counties.** The county boards of two or more contiguous counties may make a written agreement, executed on behalf of the several county boards by the respective chairmen and secretaries thereof, whereby the counties may jointly employ a veterans service officer. The agreement shall specify the compensation to be paid to the veterans service officer, the amount thereof to be paid by each county, the number of days per month to be worked by him in each county, the percentage of the total amount of compensation to be paid by each county, the amount of travel and other expenses to be paid by each county, and such other terms and conditions as may be agreed upon by the counties.

**Sec. 4. Duties.** It shall be the duty of the veterans service officer to aid all residents of the governmental subdivision by which he is employed in securing benefits provided by law on account of the service of any person in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, from which he has a discharge other than dishonorable.

**Sec. 5. Unlawful to pay fee.** Subdivision 1. It shall be unlawful for any person to pay any veterans service officer or any employee under him or for any veterans service officer or employee under him to receive any fee directly or indirectly for any service rendered in securing any benefit referred to in Section 4 hereof.

Subd. 2. Any person who shall commit an act unlawful under Subdivision 1 of this section shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

**Sec. 6. Supervision.** Subdivision 1. Every veterans service officer appointed under this act shall be under the general supervision of the commissioner of veterans' affairs as to methods of operation.

Subd. 2. Every veterans' service officer appointed under this act shall use the department of veterans affairs or any organization recognized by the United States Veterans Administration, as may be designated by the veteran by Power of Attorney, in the presentation of claims to the United States Veterans Administration for the benefits referred to in Section 4 hereof.

Subd. 3. The commissioner of veterans' affairs shall have authority to prescribe such rules or regulations as are necessary for compliance with this section and the efficient uniform administration of this act. Such rules or regulations shall not apply to the appointment, tenure, compensation or working conditions of a veterans service officer appointed under this act.

**Sec. 7. Classed as county employees.** Veterans service officers and assistant veterans service officers appointed hereunder are employees of the counties by which they are employed, and are under the exclusive jurisdiction and control of such counties and the department of veterans affairs as herein provided.

**Sec. 8. Temporary employee.** If a person with the qualifications prescribed by this act is not available, the county board may appoint a temporary veterans service officer without such qualifications. The authority to make appointments under this section and the term of office or employment of any person appointed under it shall expire 90 days after cessation of hostilities in the present war as declared by proper federal authority.

Approved March 12, 1945.

#### CHAPTER 97—H. F. No. 777

*An act relating to drainage proceedings and civil engineers therein, and amending Minnesota Statutes 1941, Section 106.05.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1941, Section 106.05, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"106.05. Engineer; appointment, oath, bond.** Upon the filing of the petition and bond, the county board, in a county drainage proceeding, or the judge of the district court, in a judicial drainage proceeding, shall, within 30 days thereafter, by order appoint a competent and experienced civil engineer and direct him to proceed and examine into and report, within the time fixed in the order, to the board or court all matters necessary and essential to disclose the practicability, necessity, and advisability of the construction of the proposed improvement. The engineer so appointed shall within ten days thereafter take and subscribe an oath to faithfully perform the duties assigned to him according to the best of his ability, and give a bond in the sum of not less than \$5,000 with good and sufficient surety, payable to the county or counties affected by the proposed improvement, for the benefit of the county or counties, and for the use of all parties aggrieved or injured by any negligence or malfeasance on the part of the engineer