

person or body whatsoever and no person shall be removed, reduced in grade, or salary, or otherwise prejudiced for refusal so to do. No public officer whether elected or appointed shall discharge, promote, demote, or in any manner change the official rank of the employee or the compensation of any person in the classified service or promise or threaten to do so, for the giving or withholding or neglecting to make any contribution of money or services or any other valuable thing for any political purpose.

No person holding office or place in the classified service shall seek and accept election, nomination, or appointment as an officer of a political group or organization to take active part in a political campaign or serve as a member of a committee of any such club or organization or circulate or seek signatures to any petition provided for by any primary or election law or act as a worker at the polls, or distribute badges, colors, or indicia favoring or opposing the candidate for election or nomination to a public office, whether federal, state, county or municipal; provided, however, that nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit or prevent any such officer or employee from becoming or continuing to be a member of a political club or organization or from attendance upon political meetings or from enjoying entire freedom from all interference in casting his vote or from seeking or accepting election or appointment to public office, provided that any officer or employee in the classified service becoming a candidate for nomination or election to any public office shall by the act of filing his candidacy be removed from the classified service.

Except as herein provided, any officer or employee in the county classified service may be a candidate for and hold a township or school district office if the office is one for which compensation is not paid.

Approved April 21, 1953.

CHAPTER 570—H. F. No. 1842

An act relating to firemen's relief associations in cities of the first class; amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 69.28.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 69.28, is amended to read:

69.28. **Eligibility.** Every fireman shall apply for membership in the relief association in the city in which he is

employed within the time and in the manner hereinafter set forth. Any such fireman shall, not later than 90 days from the time he is regularly entered on the payrolls of the fire department, make written application for membership in the relief association on forms supplied by the association, accompanied by one or more physician's certificates required by the by-laws of the association. After the application has been filed, the board of examiners of the association shall make a thorough investigation thereof and file its report with the secretary of the association. The application must be acted upon by the association within six months from the date applicant was entered on the pay-roll of the fire department. No fireman, who is more than 35 years of age when his application is filed, can become a member of the relief association, except that such age limitation of 35 years shall not apply on application for reinstatement in the association.

Any member of the fire department in any city of the first class on January 1, 1941, may be eligible to membership in a firemen's relief association. Such member shall make application within 90 days from and after the passage of this section. His application must be acted upon by the association within six months thereafter.

Upon the acceptance of the application, the membership of the applicant shall become effective as of the date when he was entered on the pay-roll of the department, provided the applicant shall make up all dues which he would have paid had he been a member of the firemen's relief association from the date he entered upon the pay-roll of the department. All payments, benefits, and privileges to which these firemen are entitled as members of that fund shall be governed by sections 69.25 and 69.61.

Approved April 21, 1953.

CHAPTER 571—H. F. No. 1849

[Coded]

An act providing for a rural credit deficiency fund, levying taxes for the payment of deficiencies in the rural credit fund and the rural credit interest fund; authorizing the conservator of rural credit, with the approval of the executive council, to issue and sell rural credit deficiency fund certificates of indebtedness in anticipation of the collection of such taxes; authorizing the state board of investment to purchase such certificates of indebtedness, and appropriating moneys for the purposes of this act.