

## CHAPTER 532—H. F. No. 1621

*An act creating an interim committee to study the problem of relief in the state of Minnesota, prescribing its rights, powers, and duties, and appropriating money therefor.*

WHEREAS, the last decade has witnessed in the state of Minnesota, a growing demand upon the agencies of government for the care of persons in need, resulting in relief programs and direct relief to persons in need, many times larger than ever experienced in the history of the state, and

WHEREAS, the problems created by the tremendous growth in the demands for money to furnish needed relief are by no means local problems for any community, city, village or county, but have long been recognized by the government of the United States as nation-wide in scope, and by the several states, including the state of Minnesota, as a matter of serious state concern, to aid to the solution of which, the governments of the United States and of the State of Minnesota, have instituted "made work" programs, and have found it necessary to appropriate vast sums of money for distribution through local agencies, in order to meet these growing demands, and

WHEREAS, local communities of this state have been required nevertheless, to contribute from their treasuries, vast sums of money for this same purpose, either to match sponsors' contributions or to meet woefully inadequate appropriations available to them, and

WHEREAS, the financing of relief for cities of the first class in Minnesota has forced a process of issuing local bonds in the absence of any other authorized local current sources of funds, and in some instances, the further issuance of refunding bonds to provide for the payment of principle of outstanding indebtedness, thereby in effect paying off borrowed money with further borrowing with continued interest charges and

WHEREAS, such practices of relief bond issues and refunding bond issues have aggravated the cities' financial burden, and as a practical matter have virtually exhausted the capacity of such cities to continue financing relief, even on the basis of standards fixed by proper state agencies, and which practices threaten such communities and cities with inevitable bankruptcy, unless funds heretofore raised by such communities and cities are replaced by the people of the state of Minnesota as a whole, through appropriations from the state

treasury from year to year, so long as the need for such relief exists, and

WHEREAS, during these trying times, there has been a gradual movement of population from rural communities into urban centers, thereby increasing the demands upon the larger communities and cities for direct relief, which has not been offset by any compensating adjustment of revenues available to such communities and cities, thus creating a state-wide problem defying solution by any single community or city, and

WHEREAS, while there may have been a slight decrease in the amount of money required for direct relief in some of the communities and cities of the state during the last biennium, there is no certainty or assurance that decreases will continue in the future, and it is recognized that the gigantic defense program now under way on a national scale, with its consequent diminishment of unemployment, has so far resulted in far greater benefits to states adjacent to the east and west coasts of the United States where shipping industries exist, than to the midwest and in particular the state of Minnesota, all of which is of necessity of a temporary character, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the chaotic condition in the world today, under existing conditions, cannot help but create a temporary boom to be followed, if the experience of the World War I is to be relied upon, by a probable depression far exceeding in its effects anything ever experienced in our country, requiring at this time, a thorough study and careful planning in the field of relief based on the need of the people of the state of Minnesota, now, therefore,

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

**Section 1. Interim committee to study relief problem created.**—An Interim Committee is hereby created, to consist of ten members, five from the senate to be appointed by the committee on committees, and five from the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker to study and determine the facts with reference to relief based on need in the state of Minnesota at the present time and under conditions likely to exist in the immediate future, in Minnesota, and

Such Interim Committee shall make such recommendations as it may deem necessary for the consideration of the next legislature of the state of Minnesota, for the purpose of planning adequate means to eliminate the causes and to meet the needs and conditions existing and likely to exist in respect to relief, and in the event of an emergency arising within the state of Minnesota during the next biennium with respect to

the relief of persons in need in the state of Minnesota, to make recommendations to the governor of the state of Minnesota and other proper officials of the state concerning immediate steps to be taken by the governor or other state officials to meet the conditions of such emergency, to the end that the citizens and residents of the state of Minnesota shall not suffer the lack or want of the necessities of life under any existing conditions; such committee shall investigate the present system of administering relief based on need within the state of Minnesota; the extent to which state contributions have been and will be in the future required; and such methods and plans that may be required on the part of the state of Minnesota to meet the needs of such conditions.

Such Interim Committee shall further study the proper distribution of funds required of the state of Minnesota to meet the actual needs of relief in the various sub-divisions of the state of Minnesota; the factors affecting the availability or non-availability of local funds to meet local relief needs; and measures to be taken at the next session of the legislature of this state whereby to assure the availability of such funds for such purpose; the levies, if any, and expenditures of the local sub-divisions of this state and the extent to which such sub-divisions are required, for purposes of relief.

Such Interim Committee shall report to the legislature prior to the convening of the next regular session, its findings with respect to the subjects studied and its recommendations with reference thereto.

For the purposes of this act such committee is authorized to hold hearings, and to sit at such times and places as it may deem advisable; to summon and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence, upon subpoenas signed by the chairman or vice chairman; provided that every person who, having been summoned as a witness by authority of said committee shall refuse or neglect, without lawful excuse, to attend pursuant to such summons, or who, having appeared, wilfully refuses to be sworn or to affirm or to answer any material or proper question, or to produce, upon reasonable notice, any material and proper books, papers, or documents in his possession or under his control, or shall be found guilty of having wilfully and maliciously destroyed any such books, papers or documents for purposes of concealment, shall be punished as in case of contempt of the district court, in proceedings upon complaint of the chairman or vice-chairman in the district court of the county in which the subpoena is made returnable; provided that this shall be supplementary to any of the other penalties prescribed by

law; to require of all officers, agencies, and employees of the state or of any town, city, village, school district or county, such information and reports and the production of such records as are deemed advisable; to employ such stenographic, clerical, or other assistance as it deems advisable; to spend such sums as may be necessary out of funds appropriated to it for the purpose of such investigation.

**Sec. 2. Members to receive necessary expenses.**—The members of such committee shall be paid necessary expenses only from the funds hereby appropriated by filing with the state auditor a statement showing such expenses, which, with claims for other expenses incurred by the committee, shall not exceed the amount herein provided. The state auditor shall audit such claims and issue his warrant upon the state treasurer for the amount of such audit.

**Sec. 3. Appropriation.**—The sum of \$5,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated to such committee for the purposes of this act, out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved April 28, 1941.

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#### CHAPTER 533—S. F. No. 502

*An act relating to the state civil service, amending Laws 1939, Chapter 441, Sections 9, 10, 22 and 26.*

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

**Section 1. Law amended.**—Laws 1939, Chapter 441, Section 9, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**“Sec. 9. Division of service.**—The civil service of the state of Minnesota is hereby divided into the unclassified and the classified services.

(1) The unclassified service comprises positions held by state officers or employees who are:

- a. chosen by election or appointed to fill an elective office;
- b. heads of departments required by law to be appointed by the governor or other elective officers and the executive or administrative heads of departments, divisions and institutions specifically established by law, except that with respect