

THE  
STATUTES AT LARGE  
OF THE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA

COMPRISING

THE GENERAL STATUTES OF 1866

*As amended by subsequent Legislation to the close of the Session of 1873*

TOGETHER WITH

*ALL LAWS OF A GENERAL NATURE IN FORCE, MARCH 7, A.D. 1873*

WITH REFERENCES TO

JUDICIAL DECISIONS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, AND OF OTHER  
STATES WHOSE STATUTES ARE SIMILAR

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, THE ORGANIC ACT,  
THE ACT AUTHORIZING A STATE GOVERNMENT, AND THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

*VOL. I.*

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CHICAGO  
CALLAGHAN AND COMPANY

1873

## CHAPTER XXXI.\*

## OF THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICS.

(This Chapter is the Act of March 4, 1870. S. L. 1870, 42.)

## SEC.

1. Who to be commissioner of statistics—duty of.
2. May make general and special inquiries of any state, county, city, or town officer on all matters of information which can be gathered from records in their official keeping—compensation of said officers for such service.
3. Duty of town assessors—suitable blanks to be furnished by said commissioner—penalty for neglect of duty—duty of county auditors.
4. City and town clerks to keep register of births and deaths—form of blank to be used for the purpose.
5. Duty of parents and others in case of birth or death—penalty for refusal or neglect to notify said officers—within what time specified.

## SEC.

6. Duty of physician attending a person during his last illness—penalty for non-compliance.
7. When clerks to transmit certified copy of the registry of births and deaths to clerk of district court—compensation—penalty for negligence or refusal—when clerk of district court to report to commissioner of statistics.
8. Commissioner of statistics to prepare and furnish suitable blanks to facilitate a prompt and uniform performance of duties required.
9. Forfeiture for non-performance of duties—in what amount.
10. When commissioner to make report to governor.
11. Annual appropriation to cover necessary disbursements.

SECTION 1. *Who to be commissioner of statistics—duty of.*—The assistant secretary of state shall be *ex officio* commissioner of statistics. It shall be his duty annually to collect and compile from official and any other reliable sources, statistics of the state of Minnesota pertaining to its agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and population, including vital statistics and all useful facts which he may be able to gather bearing upon the material and social interests of the state, and tending to afford at home and abroad a correct knowledge of its resources and progress.

SEC. 2. *Duty of officers of whom commissioner may solicit information—compensation.*—The said commissioner of statistics shall have power to address general or special inquiries, with printed instructions and blanks for answers, or otherwise at his discretion, to any state, district, county, city, or town officer, and it shall be the duty of such officer to answer fully and promptly such general or special questions as may be addressed to them by said commissioner on all matters of information which can be gathered from documents or records in their official keeping, and for such services said officers shall be allowed from their respective county treasuries just and reasonable compensation, computing the same at fifteen cents for every folio furnished by them, including all preparatory labor requisite to obtain the condensed results desired, or they shall receive, if they so elect, forty cents per hour for each hour actually occupied in furnishing such information, the same to be properly verified.

SEC. 3. *Duty of assessors—suitable blanks to be furnished—penalty for neglect of duty—duty of auditors.*—Each township assessor shall at the time he is required by law to make his return of taxable property to the county auditor, also deliver

\* Vide S. L. 1868, 37; 1869, 22, 110.

to him a complete statement in abstract of the number of acres cultivated, and the area and product of wheat, rye, barley, buckwheat, corn, oats, beans, potatoes, sorghum, cultivated and wild hay, hops, fruit trees in bearing, berries, bees, honey, and all other products, and also the number of lumber and grist mills, and manufacturing establishments of all kinds, together with the amount of capital invested in each, the value of the annual product and the number of employees; suitable blanks for which shall be supplied by the county auditor, who shall be supplied with the same by the commissioner of statistics. For failure or neglect to perform the said duties, assessors shall forfeit any sum not exceeding fifty dollars for each offense. Each county auditor shall carefully compile and forward to the commissioner of statistics a full abstract of said returns on or before the first day of December annually under a penalty of fifty dollars, to be forfeited to the state, for each failure or neglect to perform such duty.

SEC. 4 (AS AMENDED BY ACT OF MARCH 4, 1871). *City and town clerks to keep register of births and deaths.*—The clerk of each city and town in this state shall receive or obtain and register the following facts concerning the births and deaths occurring therein, separately numbering and recording the same in the order in which he receives them, designated in separate columns, viz.: In the registry of births, the date of the birth, the name of the child (if it have any), the sex and color of the child, the names and places of birth of the parents, and the date of the record. In the registry of deaths, the date of the death, the name of the deceased, the sex, the color, the condition (whether single, widowed, or married), the age, the place of birth, the names and place of birth of the parents, the disease or cause of death, and the date of the record. And the county auditor of each county shall furnish each city and town clerk within his county, at the expense of the county, a book in which to register the facts concerning the births and deaths as above provided.

S. L. 1871, 102.

SEC. 5. *Parents to give notice to clerk of births and deaths of children, etc.*—Parents shall give notice to the clerk of their city or town of the births and deaths of their children; every householder shall give like notice of every birth and death happening in his house; the oldest person next of kin shall give such notice of the death of his kindred; the keeper or other proper officer of every work-house, poor-house, reform school, jail, prison, hospital, asylum, or other public or charitable institution, shall give like notice of any birth and death happening among the persons under his charge. Whoever neglects or refuses to give such notice for the period of thirty days after the occurrence of a birth or death, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, to be collected as other fines are collected by law.

SEC. 6. Any physician having attended a person during his last illness, shall, when requested, within fifteen days after the decease of such person, forthwith furnish for registration a certificate of the duration of the last sickness, the disease of which the person died, and the date of his decease, as nearly as he can state the same. If any physician refuses or neglects to make such certificate he shall forfeit the sum of twenty-five dollars, to be collected as other fines are collected by law.

SEC. 7 (AS AMENDED BY ACT OF MARCH 4, 1871). *When copy of registry to be transmitted to district clerk—penalty for neglect—when district clerk to report to commissioner of statistics—fee.*—The clerk of each city and town shall annually, on or before the tenth day of January, transmit to the clerk of the district court of the county, embracing such city or town, a certified copy of the registry of births and

deaths, which have occurred therein during the year ending on the last day of the preceding December. He shall receive from his county treasury, for obtaining, registering, and returning the facts herein required, twenty-five cents for each birth or death so obtained, registered, or reported, and for refusal or neglect to perform such duties as herein required, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty dollars for each offense, to be collected as other fines are collected. The said clerk of the district court shall record said returns of births and deaths in a suitable book or books to be provided for that purpose, and kept in his office, and shall annually, and on or before the twentieth day of January, transmit to the commissioner of statistics an abstract of such record. The said clerk shall be entitled to receive from the county treasury of his respective county, for the services herein required, the sum of ten cents for each birth and death so registered as aforesaid, on pain of forfeiture as hereinbefore provided.

S. L. 1871, 102.

SEC. 8. *Commissioner to furnish blanks for the purpose.*—It shall be the duty of the commissioner of statistics to prepare and furnish to the officers who are herein required to register and report births and deaths as aforesaid, suitable blanks and instructions to facilitate the regular, prompt, and uniform performance of the duties required of them, such blanks and instructions to be forwarded to the clerks of the district courts, and by them distributed to the officers aforesaid.

SEC. 9. *Forfeiture for non-performance of duty—in what amount.*—Any person who by this chapter (act) is required to give information to the commissioner of statistics, and who shall refuse or neglect to answer the inquiries addressed to him by that officer upon matters of fact or record in his official possession, shall forfeit to the state of Minnesota any sum not exceeding fifty dollars for each offense, to be collected as other fines are collected by law.

SEC. 10. *When commissioner to make report.*—The said commissioner of statistics shall, during the month of January in each year, make a written report to the governor, giving in a concise and available form the results of his labors, which shall be communicated by the governor to the legislature, and be printed, distributed, and bound with the executive documents, as provided by law.

SEC. 11. *Annual appropriation to cover expenses.*—To cover all the disbursements necessary under the provisions of this chapter (act) the sum of one thousand dollars shall be annually appropriated, which sum shall include the compensation of said commissioner of statistics for the performance of the duties herein specified, and all clerk hire, stationery, and incidental expenses.

Sec. 12 repeals all inconsistent acts.