

No. 47.

AN ACT

Creating a Legislative Reference Bureau; designating the officers and employes of such bureau; defining their duties, and fixing their salaries.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That a Legislative Reference Bureau is hereby created for the use and information of the Governor, the Members of the General Assembly, the heads of the departments of the State Government, and such citizens of the Commonwealth as may desire to consult the same. The bureau shall be located in the State Library Building.

Legislative
Reference Bureau

Creation.

Location.

Section 2. The Legislative Reference Bureau shall be in charge of a director, who shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of four years. The director of the present Legislative Reference Bureau in office at the time of the approval of this act shall, until an appointment is made by the Governor, hold the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau created by this act, subject to removal by the Governor.

Director.

Appointment.

Term.

Section 3. The Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau shall be qualified by experience, knowledge, and ability to conduct the work of the bureau. He shall be well versed in legislative procedure and parliamentary practice, and shall in such matters, when called upon, be ex officio adviser to the General Assembly. He shall give bond, in the sum of ten thousand dollars, to be approved by the Governor, for the faithful performance of his duties, and he shall devote his whole time and attention to the duties of his office. He shall have access to the Law Library and the publications therein of the various State Governments and the United States Government, which may be generally classed as legislative documents. He shall receive a salary of six thousand dollars per annum.

Qualifications.

Bond.

Access to Law
Library.

Salary.

Section 4. The director, with the approval of the Governor, shall appoint an assistant director, learned in the law, who shall be a skilled bill drafter, and who shall receive a salary of six thousand dollars per annum. The assistant director shall perform the duties of the director in the case of a vacancy in said office or in case of the absence or inability of the director to act, and he shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the director.

Assistant director.

Section 5. The director shall also appoint a chief compiler, learned in the law, who shall be a skilled bill drafter, and who shall receive a salary of thirty-six

Chief compiler.

LAWS OF PENNSYLVANIA,

Compilers. hundred dollars per annum; a compiler and bill drafter, learned in the law, at an annual salary of three thousand dollars; a compiler and bill reading clerk, learned in the law, at an annual salary of three thousand dollars; a search clerk, learned in the law, at an annual salary of three thousand dollars; a messenger and file clerk at an annual salary of eighteen hundred dollars; a chief clerk, who shall be a stenographer, at an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars; a skilled reference librarian at an annual salary of eighteen hundred dollars; and three stenographers at an annual salary of thirteen hundred and twenty dollars each. The director may, for a period commencing one month prior to and ending one month after each session of the General Assembly, appoint one bill book clerk at a salary of one hundred seventy-five dollars per month, and an assistant bill book clerk at a salary of one hundred fifty dollars per month, and such stenographers as may be necessary at a salary of one hundred dollars per month each.

Section 6. The Board of Commissioners of Public Grounds and Buildings shall provide the bureau with suitable rooms in the State Library Building, situate so as to give the bureau ready access to the volumes, catalogues, documents, and other papers in the State Library, and in a place where the bureau will be convenient to the Members of the General Assembly and other persons having official business with the bureau.

Rooms. The bureau shall be kept open on business days from nine ante meridian to four post meridian during the entire year, and, when the General Assembly is in session, at such hours, day and night, as are most convenient to its members.

Business hours.

Section 7. The director shall prepare, and have available for use, indices of Pennsylvania laws, digests of such public laws of this and other States as may be of use for legislative information, records and files of all bills and resolutions presented in either branch of the General Assembly, loose leaf files of acts of Assembly, catalogued files of such reports of departments, boards, and commissions, and other public documents of this State, as well as general books and pamphlets, as pertain to the work and service of the bureau, files of newspaper and periodical clippings, and of such other printed matter as may be proper for the purposes of the bureau. The director shall also, when requested by the Governor, heads of departments, or Members of the General Assembly, promptly procure available information, not on file in the bureau, relating to legislation of other States, and investigate the manner in which laws have operated. He shall establish a system of exchanges

Indices and digests.

Files.

Exchanges.

with such other States as is expedient and practicable. He shall from time to time prepare and publish such bulletins, pamphlets, and circulars, containing information collected by the bureau, and such compilations of this or of other States, as he shall deem to be of service to the Governor, the several departments of the State Government, the Members of the General Assembly, and the citizens of the Commonwealth. From time to time he shall cause to be prepared, for adoption or rejection by the General Assembly, codes, by topics, of the existing general statutes, arranged by chapters or articles and sections under suitable headings, and he shall add thereto lists of statutes of the existing law to be repealed. He shall assist in or supervise, when called upon by any proper authority, or when directed by the General Assembly so to do, the compilation and preparation of any general revision and codifications of the existing laws of the Commonwealth.

Section 8. The director and his assistants shall neither oppose nor urge legislation, but shall, upon request, aid and assist the Members of the General Assembly, the Governor, and the heads of departments, by advising as to bills and resolutions, and by drafting the same into proper form, and by furnishing to them the fullest information upon all matters within the scope of the bureau relating to their public duties. No officer or employe of the bureau shall reveal to any person outside of the bureau the contents or nature of any matter not yet published, without the consent of the person bringing such matters before the bureau.

Section 9. The bureau shall be available for consultation freely by citizens of the Commonwealth as to such general information as it may be able to furnish and as to the statutory law of this or any other State on particular subjects, and shall furnish to citizens, upon request, copies of such laws as are available for distribution, but in no case and under no circumstances shall any officer or employe in his official capacity furnish any opinion on any legal matter to any private citizen.

Section 10. The printing and binding necessary for the proper performance of the duties of the bureau or the proper preservation of material shall be done by the State Printer, upon the order of the Superintendent of Public Printing and Binding, upon requisition of the director. The Board of Commissioners of Public Grounds and Buildings shall, upon request of the director, furnish the bureau with such books, stationery, supplies, furniture, et cetera, as may be needed for the proper conduct of the affairs of the bureau.

Section 11. The following acts and parts of acts of Assembly are hereby repealed absolutely: The act,

Publications.

Codes.

Lobbying.

Drafting bills.

Disclosures.

Consultations
by citizens.Furnishing copies
of laws.Printing and
binding.

Supplies.

Acts repealed.

Act of April 27,
1909 (P. L. 208).

approved the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand nine hundred and nine (Pamphlet Laws, two hundred and eight), entitled "An act to create a Legislative Reference Bureau in the Pennsylvania State Library; authorizing the appointment of a Reference Director and subordinate officers, defining their duties, and fixing their compensation"; the act, approved the twenty-first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws, seventy-six), entitled "An act amending the second, third, fourth, and seventh sections of an act, approved the twenty-seventh day of April, Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and nine, entitled 'An act to create a Legislative Reference Bureau in the Pennsylvania State Library; authorizing the appointment of a Reference Director and subordinate officers, defining their duties and fixing their compensation,' by providing for additional permanent and emergency employes in the bureau and fixing their salaries, increasing the salaries of the director and the assistant director, and increasing the powers and duties of the director"; the act, approved the twentieth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen (Pamphlet Laws, two hundred and fifty), entitled "An act directing the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare compilation of codes, by topics, of the existing general laws of this Commonwealth, for adoption or rejection by the General Assembly; fixing the powers and duties of the bureau therein; fixing the compensation of the assistant director; and making an appropriation therefor"; the act, approved the fourteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and fifteen (Pamphlet Laws, four hundred and seventy-four), entitled "An act authorizing the Legislative Reference Bureau to continue the work commenced under the provisions of an act, approved the twentieth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, entitled 'An act directing the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare compilations or codes, by topics, of the existing general laws of this Commonwealth, for adoption or rejection by the General Assembly; fixing the powers and duties of the bureau therein; fixing the compensation of the assistant director; and making an appropriation therefor,' fixing the powers and duties of the bureau therein, and making an appropriation"; the act, approved the fourteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and fifteen (Pamphlet Laws, five hundred and thirty-three), entitled "An act to amend an act, entitled 'An act to create a Legislative Reference Bureau in the Pennsylvania State Library; authorizing the appointment of a reference director and subordinate officers; defining their duties, and fixing their compensation,' approved the twenty-seventh day of April, Anno Domini one thousand nine

Act of April 21,
1911 (P. L. 76).

Act of May 20,
1913 (P. L. 250).

Act of May 14,
1915 (P. L. 474).

Act of May 14,
1915 (P. L. 533).

hundred and nine (Pamphlet Laws of Pennsylvania, one thousand nine hundred and nine, page two hundred and eight), as amended by an act, entitled 'An act amending the second, third, fourth, and seventh sections of an act, approved the twenty-seventh day of April, Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and nine, entitled 'An act to create a Legislative Reference Bureau in the Pennsylvania State Library; authorizing the appointment of a reference director and subordinate officers; defining their duties and fixing their compensation,' by providing for additional permanent and emergency employes in the bureau, and fixing their salaries; increasing the salaries of the director and assistant director, and increasing the powers and duties of the director,' approved the twenty-first day of April, Anno Domini one thousand nine hundred and eleven (Pamphlet Laws of Pennsylvania, one thousand nine hundred and eleven, page seventy-six)"; the act, approved the third day of May, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen (Pamphlet Laws, one hundred and fifty-five), entitled "An act authorizing the Legislative Reference Bureau to continue the work commenced under the provisions of an act, approved the twentieth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen, entitled 'An act directing the Legislative Reference Bureau to prepare compilations or codes, by topics, of the existing general laws of this Commonwealth, for adoption or rejection by the General Assembly; fixing the powers and duties of the bureau therein; fixing the compensation of the assistant director; and making an appropriation therefor'; fixing the powers and duties of the bureau therein, and making an appropriation"; and the act, approved the eighteenth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen (Pamphlet Laws, sixty-five), entitled "An act to amend section three of an act, approved the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand nine hundred and nine (Pamphlet Laws, two hundred and eight), entitled 'An act to create a Legislative Reference Bureau in the Pennsylvania State Library; authorizing the appointment of a Reference Director and subordinate officers, defining their duties, and fixing their compensation,' as amended."

Act of May 3,
1917 (P. L. 155)

Act of April 18,
1919 (P. L. 65).

All other acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed. Repeal.

APPROVED—The 31st day of March, A. D. 1921.

WM. C. SPROUL.