

CHAPTER 205.

[H. B. 711.]

INVESTIGATION OF OIL INDUSTRY.

AN ACT authorizing and directing the director of public service, the director of finance, budget and business, and the director of licenses as a committee to make a thorough investigation of every phase of the business of producing, refining, manufacturing, transporting, buying, selling and distributing motor fuels and motor lubricants and their by-products in so far as the same affects industry, commerce and agriculture within this state; prescribing powers, duties and penalties in connection with such investigation; making an appropriation therefor and declaring that this act shall take effect April 1, 1937.

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

SECTION 1. The constantly increasing use of motor fuels and motor lubricants and their by-products in all branches of industry, commerce, and agriculture in the State of Washington makes every phase of the business of producing, refining, manufacturing, transporting, buying, selling and distributing of such products of increasing importance to the welfare of the people of the state. The legislature and people of the state do not now but should possess adequate knowledge of every phase of such business.

SEC. 2. The director of public service, the director of finance, budget and business, and the director of licenses are hereby appointed as a committee, which committee is hereby authorized and directed to make a thorough investigation of every phase of the business of producing, refining, manufacturing, transporting, buying, selling and distributing motor fuels and their by-products in so far as the same affects industry, commerce and agriculture within this state.

Committee authorized to make investigation.

SEC. 3. For the purpose of making such investigation the committee shall have the power and au-

Powers and authority.

thority to employ all necessary general and technical assistance, to hold hearing within and without the state, to subpoena witnesses and examine them under oath, to impound and subpoena files, records and documents of individuals and corporations and trade associations, and to do such other things as are necessary to conduct the investigation in a legal and efficient manner. In so far as the same are applicable and not in conflict herewith, the provisions of the laws governing penalties and the employment of assistants and the conduct of investigations and hearings and the production and examination of records by the department of public service under the public service laws and the department of licenses under chapter 58 of the Laws of 1933, shall apply in this investigation.

Report.

SEC. 4. From time to time the committee shall submit to the governor and publish a report and findings and before the twenty-sixth regular session of the legislature it shall submit to the governor and the legislature and publish a complete report of its investigation and findings and recommendations.

Appropriation.

SEC. 5. The expenses of this committee and its investigations, not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), shall be paid out of the appropriation made for the highway transportation commission, the department of public service, the department of finance, budget and business and the department of licenses under the direction of the governor.

Effective
April 1, 1937.

SEC. 6. This act is necessary for the promotion and preservation of the public welfare and the support of the state government and its existing institutions and shall take effect April 1, 1937.

Passed the House March 11, 1937.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1937.

Approved by the Governor March 17, 1937.