

appropriated out of the state treasury from the general military fund to pay Mrs. J. H. Stahl for rent of armory used and occupied by Company C, First Battalion, National Guard of Washington, from the first day of March, 1897, to the first day of April, 1898.

SEC. 2. That the sum of three hundred (\$300) dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of the state treasury from the general military fund to pay the Vancouver Auditorium Association for rent of armory used and occupied by Company H, Second Battalion, National Guard of Washington, for the period of twelve months.

SEC. 3. That the sum of one hundred and sixty-three and $\frac{5}{100}$ (\$163.50) dollars for maintenance and armory fund be and is hereby appropriated for the relief of Captain R. A. Koontz, Company B, First Regiment, National Guard of Washington.

SEC. 4. The state auditor is hereby authorized to draw warrants on the state treasurer for the sum in favor of the said persons, and said treasurer is hereby directed to pay said warrants out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Passed the House March 7, 1899.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1899.

Approved March 14, 1899.

CHAPTER CXL.

[H. B. No. 284.]

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

AN ACT providing for the compulsory attendance of children in the public schools in cities of more than ten thousand inhabitants.

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

SECTION 1. Every person residing in a city containing ten thousand or more inhabitants, having under

School at-
tendance
compulsory.

his control a child between the ages of seven and fifteen years, shall annually cause such child to regularly attend some public day school at least six full school months, and for every neglect of such duty the person so offending shall be fined not exceeding twenty-five dollars: *Provided*, If the person so charged shall prove, or shall present a certificate made by or under the direction of the board of directors of the city wherein he resides, setting forth that the child has attended for the required time a private day school approved by the board of directors of the city wherein such school is located, or that the child has otherwise been furnished for a like period of time with the means of education, or has already attained a reasonable proficiency in the common school branches of the first eight years as outlined in the course of study for the common schools of the State of Washington, or that his physical or mental condition was such as to render his attendance inexpedient or impracticable, or that the child, for satisfactory reasons, has been excused from attending school by the board of directors of the city in which he resides, then such penalty shall not be incurred.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of this act the board of directors of the several cities shall approve a private school only when the teaching therein is in the English language, and when they are satisfied that such teaching is thorough and efficient, and when the persons in charge of said school shall keep the record of attendance of the pupils thereof upon blanks provided by the state for such purpose, and shall render the board of directors of the city where such school is located a detailed report of the attendance of any pupil for any specified time: *Provided*, That the request for such report be made in writing and sets forth that such pupil is suspected of irregular attendance.

SEC. 3. The board of directors of each city shall annually appoint one or more special officers, and fix their compensation, who shall be truant officers and who shall, under the direction of the board of direc-

tors, inquire into all cases arising under the provisions of this act, or under any rules made in pursuance thereof, by the board of directors by which such officers were appointed, and such officers shall have power and authority in case of the violation of any of the provisions of this act to make complaint therefor to the superior court as hereinafter provided; they shall also serve all legal processes issued in pursuance of this act or of any such rules, but shall not be entitled to receive fees for such services.

Duties.

SEC. 4. The secretary of the board of directors of the several cities shall furnish the truant officers of their respective cities the names of all children between the ages of seven and fifteen which are found upon the census rolls for the current year and are not enrolled in any of the public day schools of the city, and it shall be the duty of the truant officers to ascertain in all cases why such children are not attending school and inquire into all cases of neglect of duty prescribed in section one of this act, and such truant officers, or any of them, shall when so directed by the board of directors, proceed with the necessary legal processes against any person liable to the penalty provided for in section one.

Employment
of children.

SEC. 5. No child under the age of fifteen years shall be employed in any manufacturing, mechanical or mercantile establishment, or by any telegraph or telephone company in this state, except during the vacations of the public schools of the city in which such child resides, unless during the twelve months next preceding such employment, he shall have attended school as provided for in section one of this act, or has already attained a reasonable proficiency in the common school branches for the first eight years as outlined in the course of study for common schools of the State of Washington, or shall have been excused by the board of directors of the city in which such child resides; nor shall such employment continue unless such child shall attend school each year, or until he shall have

acquired the elementary branches of learning taught in the public schools as above provided.

SEC. 6. No child under the age of fifteen years shall ^{Certificate.} be so employed who does not present a certificate made by or under the direction of the board of directors of the district in which such child resides, of his compliance with the requirements of section five of this act; and said certificate shall also give the place and date of birth of such child as nearly accurate as may be; and every owner, superintendent or overseer of any establishment or company employing any such child shall keep such certificate on file so long as such child is employed therein. The form of said certificate shall be furnished by the superintendent of public instruction.

SEC. 7. Every owner, superintendent, or overseer of ^{Penalty.} any such establishment or company who employs or permits to be employed any child in violation of any of the provisions of the two next preceding sections, and every parent or guardian who permits such employment, shall be fined not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

SEC. 8. The truant officers shall, at least once in ^{Inspection.} every school term, and as often as the board of directors shall require, visit the establishments or companies employing such children in their respective cities, and ascertain whether the provisions of the three next preceding sections hereof are duly observed, and report all violations thereof to the said board.

SEC. 9. The truant officers shall demand the names of the children under fifteen years of age employed in such establishments or companies in their respective cities, and shall require the certificates of age and school attendance, prescribed in section six of this act, to be produced for their inspection; and a refusal to produce such certificate shall be punished by a fine not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

SEC. 10. Every owner, superintendent or overseer of any such establishment or company who employs or permits to be employed therein a child under sixteen years of age who cannot write his name, age and place of residence legibly, while the public schools in the

city where such child lives are in session, shall for every such offense be fined not exceeding twenty-five dollars.

Habitual truants.

SEC. 11. The board of directors of each school district shall make all needful rules and provisions governing habitual truants and children who may be found wandering about in the streets or public places therein, having no lawful occupation or business, not attending school, and shall make such rules as will be most conducive to the welfare of such children in such city; and shall designate or provide suitable provisions for the discipline and instruction of such children.

Report of board.

SEC. 12. The board of directors of each school district under the provisions of this act shall annually report to the state board of education whether their respective cities have made provisions required by this act; and in case the said board of any city shall in any year refuse or neglect to comply with the provisions of section three and section eleven of this act, or of either of them, after having been duly notified by the superintendent of public instruction, twenty-five per centum of the money apportioned to such city from the state for school purposes shall be withheld until the provisions of section three and section eleven of this act have been complied with.

Penalty for non-enforcement.

Fines.

SEC. 13. All fines under the provisions of this act shall inure and be applied to the support of the public schools in the city where such offense was committed.

SEC. 14. The superior courts of the state shall have jurisdiction in their respective counties of all cases arising under this act, and all rules passed in conformity with this act.

Costs.

SEC. 15. No officer performing any duty under any of the provisions of this act, or under the provisions of any rules that may be passed in pursuance hereof, shall not in any wise become liable for any costs that may accrue in the performance of any duty.

Passed the House March 2, 1899.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1899.

Approved March 14, 1899.