

Chapter 406, Acts of 1916, created a Commission known as the State Board of Labor and Statistics. The Board consists of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor for a term of two years. The Governor designates one of the Commissioners as Chairman, the other two Commissioners to be known as Advisory Members.

The Board is authorized and empowered to appoint and employ such deputies, inspectors, assistants and employees as may be necessary for the performances of the duties imposed upon it, provided such appointments and employments and compensation to be allowed shall be subject to the approval of the Governor.

It shall be the duty of said Board (1st) to collect statistics concerning and examine into the condition of labor in the State, with especial reference to wages, and the causes of strikes and disagreements between employees and employers;

(2) To collect information in regard to the agricultural conditions and products of the State, the acreage under cultivation and planted in the various crops, the character and price of land, the live stock, etc., and all other matters pertaining to agricultural pursuits, which may be of general interest and calculated to attract immigration to the State.

(3) To collect information in regard to the mineral products of the State, the output of mines, quarries and so forth, and the manufacturing industries.

(4) To collect information in regard to railroads and other transportation companies, shipping and commerce.

(5) To keep a bureau of general information and to this end all offices and institutions of the State, including offices of the General Assembly, are directed to transmit to the State Board of Labor and Statistics, all reports as soon as possible.

(6) To classify and arrange the information and data so obtained, and as soon as practicable after entering upon the duties of its office, publish the same in substantial book form and annually thereafter revise and republish same.

It shall be the duty of the Board to organize, establish and conduct free employment agencies in such parts of the State as the said Board may deem advisable for the free use of citizens of the State for the purpose of securing employment for the unemployed and for the purpose of securing help or labor for persons applying for such.

To arbitrate all disputes between employer and employee. To enforce the hours of labor for females; to enforce the Factory Inspection and Child Labor Laws; the Steam Boiler Inspection and the State Mine Inspection Laws.

The Child Labor Law applies to all children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years, who must pass an educational test and also a physical examination made by the physicians connected with the Bureau, before receiving employment certificates.