

CHAPTER 259

POST-WAR TAXATION COMMITTEE

H. J. R. 8

A JOINT RESOLUTION to create a special committee to make a study of taxation in Iowa, embracing the entire structure of state and counties, cities and school districts of raising revenues, to make inquiries into the present system of assessment of real and personal property, to make a study of changes in the existing tax system which may be necessary or advisable, to equalize taxes, and study the loss of tax revenues and increased costs of state government by reason of federal action, for the purpose of making recommendations to the governor and to the general assembly of such revisions as may be necessary to meet post-war tax problems, arising in part from the war, prescribing the powers and authority of such committee and making an appropriation for its expenses.

WHEREAS, the acquisition of property by the federal government in Iowa, the great increase of federal taxes, the increased cost of state and local government because of inflation resulting from the war and the burdens placed upon local government by federal legislation, and

WHEREAS, it has become evident that the existing system of assessment of real and personal property for purposes of taxation has developed serious weaknesses and inequalities that should be thoroughly studied; and,

WHEREAS, it is apparent that the General Assembly should have available for its consideration of the facts concerning our Iowa tax system, and a comparison of it with other states, information and recommendations based upon a careful and impartial study of the taxation system of Iowa: therefore,

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 SECTION 1. That a special committee is hereby created to be known
2 as the committee on post-war taxation, which shall be composed of
3 twelve (12) members, three of which* shall be appointed by the Speak-
4 er of the House of Representatives, three of which* shall be appointed
5 by the President of the Senate, and six of whom shall be appointed
6 by the Governor, consisting of a representative of cities and towns,
7 school districts, counties, industry, labor and agriculture.

1 SEC. 2. The committee shall have full power and authority to investi-
2 gate, inquire into and examine all matters relating to the adequacy
3 of the provisions for revenue for the state government and cities and
4 towns, counties, school districts of Iowa, and shall have the power
5 to make recommendations for changes deemed advisable for the equal-
6 ization of taxes for the support of the state or municipal subdivisions,
7 and in general, to inquire into and examine every matter and thing
8 whatsoever affecting the providing of revenue for governmental pur-
9 poses in Iowa, and the administration of laws relating to taxation.

1 SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of the committee to make a scientific
2 and impartial study of the present assessment system; of present
3 methods of equalization of individual assessments and as between
4 the various taxing districts and the various counties; and specifically
5 to make definite recommendations as to changes deemed desirable in
6 the present system of assessment of real and personal property and
7 taxation in Iowa.

*According to enrolled act.

1 SEC. 4. It shall make a survey of the entire present system of ex-
2 emptions from taxation of real and personal property.

1 SEC. 5. In view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the
2 United States, in which insurance was held to be a subject of inter-
3 state commerce, and in further view of the passing of Senate File
4 340 by the United States Congress, providing that Congress shall not
5 by its silence be construed to impose any barrier to the regulation of
6 taxation of such business until January 1st, 1948, the said committee
7 shall make a special study of the matter of taxation of insurance com-
8 panies, both domestic and foreign and formulate any necessary
9 changes in the law, for the aid and guidance of the next general as-
10 sembly.

1 SEC. 6. It shall make a study of existing methods of raising reve-
2 nues from other sources than the taxation of real and personal prop-
3 erty and shall make such recommendations it deems advisable as to
4 the adoption of additional methods of providing revenue, should pres-
5 ent sources prove inadequate.

1 SEC. 7. Said committee shall choose a chairman from its members,
2 adopt rules for conduct of its proceedings, and is hereby empowered
3 to employ a secretary and such other employees as are necessary for
4 the proper conduct of the business of the committee. It is hereby
5 empowered also to employ such expert assistance as may be deemed
6 necessary for the studies and investigations herein authorized in-
7 cluding, subject to the approval of the Governor, the employment of
8 recognized survey agencies to assist the committee in arriving at its
9 conclusions. The committee may hold public hearings, may sub-
10 poena witnesses and compel the production of books, documents or
11 papers, public or private, pertaining to its investigations. Witnesses
12 shall be entitled to witness fees and to actual traveling expenses while
13 attending upon the committee, such expenses to be audited and ap-
14 proved by the committee, but no Iowa public employee shall be entitled
15 to witness fees, but may be allowed actual and necessary expenses. The
16 committee shall have access to all public records and shall be given
17 the cooperation of all public officials and shall generally have all the
18 powers of a joint legislative committee or of a legislative committee.
19 The committee may at any time or from time to time be divided into
20 subcommittees of one or more members, any of said subcommittees
21 having the power to hold hearings and conduct investigations in any
22 part of the state. The committee may also, if deemed necessary, cause
23 studies to be made of taxation systems and administration in other
24 states, and may designate, if necessary, subcommittees for the pur-
25 pose of studying revenue methods in other states than Iowa. The
26 committee or any member thereof, or the secretary of the committee,
27 shall have the power to administer oaths.

1 SEC. 8. The committee shall have the cooperation of the state tax
2 commission and its counsel in the performance of its duties and shall
3 be authorized to call upon any department of the state government,
4 including state educational institutions, for assistance in the obtain-
5 ing of information deemed useful to the committee.

1 SEC. 9. Should any vacancy occur in the committee, the Governor
2 is empowered to fill it by appointment, but in case of a vacancy in the

3 legislative membership, he shall make such appointment from the
4 representative body to which such member of the committee belonged.
5 Members of the committee appointed by the Governor shall receive
6 a compensation of ten (\$10.00) dollars per day for days actually en-
7 gaged in work of the committee together with the actual and neces-
8 sary expenses incurred by them in the discharge of their duties.
9 Legislative members shall receive their actual and necessary expenses
10 when engaged in the work of the committee and any additional
11 amounts as may be allowed by the 52nd General Assembly. The com-
12 mittee shall have power to fix the compensation of its secretary and
13 other assistants and shall be provided a suitable office for the con-
14 duct of its investigations by the state executive council.

1 SEC. 10. The committee shall enter into its duties as soon as mem-
2 bership has been appointed. It shall make a report including drafts
3 of proposed bills, to the Governor on or before November 15, 1946 and
4 thereupon the Governor shall cause to be printed the necessary num-
5 ber of copies of said report, including the drafts of proposed bills,
6 and cause copies of same to be mailed to the elected members of the
7 52nd General Assembly on or before December 1, 1946. The expense
8 thereof shall be paid from the funds hereinafter provided for. Upon
9 the making of said report to the Governor, the commission shall stand
10 discharged of its duties hereunder.

11 The committee shall also be prepared to report to any special ses-
12 sion of the 51st General Assembly which might be called.

1 SEC. 11. There is hereby appropriated from any funds of the state
2 treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of thirty thousand
3 (\$30,000) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to carry
4 out the proposals of this act and for compensation and expenses of
5 such committee and its members as herein provided, to be paid out of
6 the state treasury on vouchers to be approved by the chairman or
7 secretary of the committee and audited according to law.

1 SEC. 12. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take
2 effect and be in full force from and after its publication in the Minden
3 News, a newspaper published in the city of Minden, Iowa, and The
4 Manning Monitor, a newspaper published in Manning, Iowa.

Approved April 4, 1945.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the Minden News, Minden,
Iowa, April 12, 1945, and The Manning Monitor, Manning, Iowa, April 12, 1945.

WAYNE M. ROPES, *Secretary of State.*