

CHAPTER 138

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES; HISTORIC SITES

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138.01 MINNESOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AGENCY OF STATE GOVERNMENT. For the purposes of Laws 1925, Chapter 426, the Minnesota state historical society shall be construed to be an agency of the state government.
 [1925 c. 426 art. 19 s. 1] (53-47)

138.02 MINNESOTA WAR RECORDS COMMISSION DISCONTINUED. The Minnesota war records commission shall turn over all material, records, documents, and papers in its possession to the Minnesota state historical society.
 [1925 c. 423 s. 11] (2535-1)

138.03 MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS; COPIES AS EVIDENCE. The Minnesota historical society is hereby authorized to receive and is made the custodian of such records, files, documents, books, and papers as may be turned over to it from any of the public offices of the state, including state, county, city, village, and town offices. The Minnesota historical society is hereby authorized to destroy all such records, documents, and papers which it deems to be without legal or administrative value or historical interest. No public document less than six years old shall be destroyed. An accurate descriptive list of the records so disposed of and a record of the disposal itself shall be filed and preserved by the Minnesota historical society and by the department or agency in which the records originated. It shall provide for the classification, arranging, and indexing of all public records which it deems to be of sufficient value and interest to preserve, so that they may be made available for the use of the public. Copies and photographic reproductions of all such papers, documents, files, and records, including reproduction of records, the originals of which have been destroyed, when certified under oath as true copies by the superintendent of the society, shall be admitted as evidence in all courts, with the same effect as if certified to by the original custodian thereof.

[1919 c. 170 s. 1; 1941 c. 553 s. 5] (8008-1)

138.04 RECORDS, HOW TRANSFERRED TO SOCIETY. Any public official is hereby authorized, upon the conditions hereinafter provided, to turn over to the Minnesota state historical society, such records, files, documents, books, and papers in his custody as are not in current use. The society shall present to such official a petition or application in which such records, files, documents, books, or papers shall be described in terms sufficient to identify the same, which petition shall be approved by the governor, in case of a state officer, by the board of county commissioners, in case of a county officer, and by the governing body of any city, village, or town in case of a city, village, or town officer, which application shall be filed in the office from which the records, files, documents, books, or papers have been turned over to the society. Sections 138.03 and 138.04 shall not repeal or annul the provisions of section 480.09.

[1919 c. 170 s. 2; 1941 c. 553 s. 6] (8008-2)

138.05 COUNTY BOARD OR CITY COUNCILS MAY FURNISH ROOM FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETIES. The county board of any county or the governing body of any municipal corporation or public library in the state is hereby authorized and empowered to furnish a room in the court-house of the county, or in the municipal building, or public library, as the case may be, for the use of the historical society of such county, and to furnish light and heat for such room.

[1929 c. 324 s. 1] (5670-11)

138.06 APPROPRIATIONS FOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. The County Board of any county in the state having a population of less than 25,000, according to the last United States census, is hereby authorized and empowered to appropriate, out of the revenue fund of such county, such sum, not exceeding \$2,000 annually, and in counties where the population is not less than 25,000, nor more than 75,000, the county board of such county is hereby authorized to appropriate a sum not exceeding \$3,000 annually, and in counties where the population is more than 75,000, the county board is hereby authorized to appropriate a sum not exceeding \$5,000, annually, as it may deem advisable, to be paid to the historical society of such counties, respectively to be used for the promotion of historical work within the borders thereof, and for the collection, preservation, and publication of historical material, and to disseminate historical information of the county, and in general to defray the expense of carrying on the historical work in such county; provided that no county board is authorized to appropriate any funds for the benefit of any county historical society unless such society shall be affiliated with and approved by the Minnesota Historical Society.

[1929 c. 324 s. 2; 1945 c. 510 s. 1] (5670-12)

138.07 APPLICATION. Sections 138.05 and 138.06 shall not affect any other act relating to historical work nor apply to any county which is now authorized by law to make appropriations for such work.

[1929 c. 324 s. 3] (5670-13)

138.08 MINNESOTA HISTORIC SITES AND MARKERS' COMMISSION. There is hereby constituted a non-salaried commission to be known as the "Minnesota Historic Sites and Markers Commission," whose membership shall consist of the director of state parks of the department of conservation, the commissioner of highways, and the superintendent of the Minnesota historical society, or their representatives. The superintendent of the Minnesota historical society shall be ex officio secretary of this commission.

It shall be the duty of this commission to designate as historic sites such sites or areas as have special archeological or historical significance and to authorize the erection of markers thereon.

The commission shall act as an advisory body to give assistance in the erection of markers commemorating historic sites. Plans and inscriptions for such markers shall be submitted to the commission for approval as to form, adequacy, suitability, and accuracy.

[1941 c. 418]

138.09 COUNTY BOARDS MAY ACQUIRE HISTORICAL SITES. The board of county commissioners of any county is hereby authorized to acquire and maintain tracts of land within the county which are designated as having historical or archaeological significance and whose acquisition and maintenance are approved by the Minnesota Historic Sites and Markers Commission in accordance with the provisions of section 138.08 and to aid in the construction of markers on such lands.

[1943 c. 462 s. 1]