

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRIAL AND DETERMINATION OF CONTROVERSIES ARISING BETWEEN EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

That all controversies hereafter arising between employers and employes, including those in relation to the propriety of regulations adopted by employers and the wages to be paid, except actions on contract for services already performed, shall be determined in the following manner :

SECTION 1. Any one interested in the controversy may file a petition in the office of the clerk of the circuit or district court of any county in the district or circuit in which such controversy has arisen, setting forth the matter in dispute between the employer and the employe, and the claim made by the petitioner, and shall give the opposite party ten days' notice, to be served as in other cases, stating that said petition has been filed and the day when said party will be required to appear and defend ; and the clerk of the court in which said petition is filed shall docket the same as ordinary actions. But this class of controversies shall take precedence in their trial to all other controversies upon the docket of said courts, and shall be tried as soon after the appearance day as possible. And upon the trial thereof either party may demand a jury and the proceedings had shall be conducted in the same manner as ordinary actions and the judgment rendered therein shall be enforced in the same manner, except that writs of injunction or mandamus may issue where necessary to enforce said judgment, and the failure to comply with said writs may be punished for contempt of court. The same consequences shall follow a failure to prosecute or defend as in other cases, commenced in said courts.

SEC. 2. Any corporation, joint stock company or partnership who has been twice convicted of contempt for failure to comply with the judgment of any court, shall for the second conviction be dissolved and be required to cease business, go into liquidation and wind up its affairs.

SEC. 3. Either party to such controversy may appeal from any decision therein to the Supreme Court of the State of Iowa, the appeal to be governed by the same rules of procedure as other cases triable by ordinary proceeding except that the operation and effect of the judgment cannot be stayed but shall be in force until reversed.

SEC. 4. No employer shall hire an employe at unreasonably low wages, and if upon trial of a controversy in relation thereto, it is found that an employer has taken intentional advantage of the necessities of an employe to procure his services at an unreasonable rate the

4 jury shall find the difference between the reasonable value of the employe's labor and the
5 amount paid, and the employe shall recover treble the difference as damages. And in de-
6 termining the reasonable value of labor the jury will not be confined to the market price
7 and may consider the nature and character of the employment and the products of the labor
8 but in no instance shall the value of labor exceed the value of its products to the employer.

SEC. 5. All combinations among employers to reduce the prices of wages are hereby for-
2 bidden and any one found guilty of entering into such a combination, shall for each offense
3 forfeit the sum of one thousand dollars to the school fund of the county where he resides,
4 to be recovered by any citizen, in the name of the State, and an injunction may issue against
5 the continuance of such a combination.