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1955

STATE OF MINNESOTA

INTERIM COMMISSION

ON

STATE FLAG

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REPRESENTATIVE HERMAN J. KORDING, VICE CHAIRMAN

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REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM SORENSON

SENATOR RAPHAEL SALMORE

SENATOR W. J. FRANZ

SENATOR M. H. ANDERSON

SENATOR LESLIE E. WESTIN

REPORT RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW FLAG WHICH PRESERVES
THE SYMBOL OF THE OLD FLAG AND ALLOWS THE MANUFACTURING OF
THE NEW FLAG AT A COST COMPARABLE WITH OTHER STATE FLAGS

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Report of the Interim Committee
on Change of the State Flag

CHAPTER 632-H.F. No. 1601

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF 1955

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota

Section 1. An interim committee is hereby created consisting of five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker and five members of the Senate appointed by the Committee on Committees.

Section 2. The committee shall consider changing the form and style of the State Flag while still preserving its basic symbolism. The Committee shall have the power to accept funds for the sole purpose of securing technical advice on construction and design of the state flag. The committee may further solicit and secure the aid of persons who have either technical or artistic skill in the construction and design of flags.

Section 3. The committee shall make its report and recommendations to the next regular session of the legislature not later than January 15, 1957.

(The committee has no appropriation)

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A total of six meetings were called by the chairman during the interim.

A survey was made of the state flags of the other states as well as a study concerning laws pertaining to flags of the states. The committee wishes to give acknowledgment and its sincere thanks to the Annin & Company, Flag Makers of New York for their counsel and technical

assistance.

Some Reasons for Setting up State Flag Interim Committee:

The Minnesota State Flag which is beautiful and artistic is not very common in the state of Minnesota due to the expensive nature of the design in the modern methods now used in manufacturing. The State Flag when adopted in 1893 was sewn by hand and was designed as a double flag with a field of white and a field of blue. This also complicates manufacturing processes and adds to the expense of sales. While flag manufacturers are able to make flags of the other states, size 3 x 5' of good quality, at about \$7.00 each; the Minnesota Flag costs almost five times that amount if made according to the original bill.

The Minnesota State Flag is therefore not very common because of the expensive nature of the design.

Committee Recommendation:

The State Flag Interim Committee is unanimously agreed that the new state flag should be a single flag and seal. The single flag, in the opinion of the Interim Committee, will be more attractive and the resulting lower resale price will help very much to popularize our State Flag.

The only change made as far as design is concerned is the elimination of the scrolls which are outside of the seal and the location of the name of MINNESOTA in the border of the seal. Otherwise the seal of Minnesota which is the basic symbol of the flag is preserved.

A further change is the elimination of the double layer of cloth. The reason for this is that when a double flag, having layers which are sewn back to back, is flown on a building the result is an opaque mass

that is both unattractive and dull, and a stiff wind will wreck the flag in but a few hours.

The single flag that the committee suggests and approves when flown on a building or flag pole is equal in beauty, or even more beautiful than the flags of other states. The fast dye process that is used in the making of the seal is made with colors that are semi-transparent, so when the flag is flying the seal of Minnesota shows up in bright colors almost with a stained glass effect.

In selection of the field of the flag the committee is of the opinion that the medium color of blue makes for the best contrast with the colors of the seal.

The committee is also agreed that the indoor flag have the symbol of the American Eagle for the top of the staff.

The committee will present a bill which will enumerate the changes in the flag. The proposed flag made up for the committee is in the rotunda of the capitol. We hope you will examine it.

/s/ M. H. Anderson

/s/ James L. Adams

/s/ W. J. Franz

/s/ John J. Kinzer

/s/ P. J. Holand

/s/ Herman J. Kording

/s/ Raphael Salmore

/s/ Leo Madden

/s/ Leslie E. Westin

/s/ William Sorenson