

No. 352

AN ACT

Relating to the dissemination of information pertaining to affairs of the Commonwealth, including information pertaining to civil rights and constitutional guarantees; and conferring powers and duties with respect thereto upon the Department of State.

Civil rights.
Powers and
duties of the
Department of
State.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the Department of State shall have the power, and its duty shall be so far as practicable—

(a) Upon request in writing, to furnish, or cause to be furnished, to any person, association or corporation, data and information pertaining to the various affairs of the Commonwealth: Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize or require the department—(1) to make public any data or information in the possession of the Commonwealth that is declared by law to be confidential; or (2) to render or furnish any opinion on any legal matter.

(b) Upon written complaint filed with the department, to refer to such civil groups or organizations, as the department deems appropriate, alleged violations of the rights of free speech and assembly, the rights of labor to organize and bargain collectively, and other civil rights and constitutional guarantees.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the various administrative departments, boards, and commissions, or other agencies of the Commonwealth, to cooperate, so far as practicable, with the Department of State in the performance of its duties under this act.

Section 3. The Department of State is hereby authorized to adopt rules and regulations pertaining to its powers and duties under this act.

Section 4. The sum of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars (\$17,500), or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby specifically appropriated to the Department of State administering and otherwise carrying out the purposes of this act.

When effective.

Section 5. This act shall become effective on the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred thirty-seven.

APPROVED—The 5th day of June, A. D. 1937, but I withhold my approval from the appropriation of \$17,500 for the reason that this item has been covered in the General Appropriation Bill.

GEORGE H. EARLE