

SECRETARY OF STATE: Re: The inclusion of lists of employees of the Departments of State Government who have left the service in the last biennium in the Official Manual of Missouri.

July 23, 1945.



Honorable Wilson Bell,
Secretary of State
Capitol Building,
Jefferson City, Missouri.

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Dear Mr. Bell:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 16, 1945, which letter reads as follows:

"The 1943-1944 Blue Book contained not only the list of employees of each department who were then working, but it contained also a list of employees who left the service during the last biennium. This requires hundreds of pages in the book, making it bulky and much more expensive.

"Does the law require that this list of employees who left the service during the last biennium be incorporated in the Blue Book this year? We should appreciate your opinion on this question."

Section 15000, R. S. Mo., 1939, is the authority for the publication of the Official Manual of Missouri, which Section reads as follows:

"The secretary of state shall biennially, as soon as practicable after the organization of each general assembly prepare and publish twenty-five thousand copies of the Missouri manual, to contain historical, official, political, statistical and other information in regard to the national and state governments, such as is found in the manuals of 1907 and 1908, said manuals to be by him distributed to the members of the general assembly, the state, judicial

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and county officers and to the newspapers of the state, the surplus volumes to be distributed throughout the state upon proper applications made therefor."

Nothing in this section requires the inclusion of lists of employees who left the service. The Official Manual of 1907-08 did not include such lists.

Section 15002, Laws of Missouri, 1941, page 690, reads as follows:

"There shall be published in said manual the name, salary and post office address, and previous occupation, including street and number, of every officer and employee, of this state, and it shall be unlawful for any officer of this state to pay or authorize the payment of a salary to any appointee or employee unless he shall first file with the secretary of state, for publication in the manual, the name, salary, post office address and previous occupation of such employee."

From the above statutes we see that the main requirements concerning the matter which should be published in the Blue Book are contained in Sec. 15000, R. S. Mo., 1939. This section requires that historical, official, political and statistical information, such as is found in the Manuals of 1907 and 1908, be included in the Blue Book. An examination of the Manuals of 1907 and 1908 reveals no lists of employees who left the service during the last biennium.

In construing statutes, words must be construed in their natural and ordinary sense. *Berry-Kofron Dental Laboratory vs. Smith*, 345 Mo. 922; *Wallace vs. Woods*, 340 Mo. 452. The plain and ordinary meaning of Sec. 15002, supra, is that the name, salary, post office address and previous occupation of every present officer and employee of this State shall be published in the official manual. The statute requires only that those presently employed at the time of the publishing of the Blue Book be listed.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore, the opinion of this department that the lists of employees who left the service during the last bi-ennium are not required to be incorporated in the Blue Book for this year.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH N. CROWE,
Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED:

J. E. TAYLOR
Attorney General

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