

CHAPTER 252.

[S. B. 269.]

ACQUISITION BY STATE OF INTEREST OF CLARK COUNTY IN COLUMBIA RIVER BRIDGE.

AN ACT authorizing acquisition on certain conditions by the state of all interest, share, right and title of Clark county in and to the bridge on the Pacific Highway across the Columbia River between Vancouver, Washington, and Portland, Oregon, providing methods for acquisition thereof and payment therefor, providing for disposal of purchase price by Clark county and providing for operation and control of said bridge by the state highway committee.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:*

SECTION 1. The State of Washington, acting through its state highway committee, is hereby authorized to purchase and Clark county, being one of the counties in said state, is hereby authorized to sell unto said state that portion of the existing bridge on the Pacific highway across the Columbia river between Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon, which has heretofore been owned by said county subject to certain encumbrances, all on the conditions hereinafter stated.

Authority for state to purchase Clark county's interest in Columbia river toll bridge.

SEC. 2. The state highway committee of the State of Washington is hereby authorized to pay unto Clark county, Washington, from any funds which may hereafter be made available for the purposes of this act by the legislature, such price and compensation as may be agreed upon between said county, acting through its board of county commissioners, and said state highway committee for all that portion of the aforesaid bridge heretofore owned by said Clark county, for the full and indefeasible title thereto free from all bonded indebtedness, both principal and interest, maintenance charges and all other encumbrances of whatsoever

Price to be paid.

nature as determined by the attorney general of the State of Washington, and upon payment of such agreed purchase price it shall be the duty of the board of county commissioners of said Clark county, Washington, to convey to the State of Washington full and indefeasible title to such portion of aforesaid bridge by conveyance in such form as may be prescribed by the attorney general of said state: *Provided*, That the state highway committee shall not purchase the aforesaid portion of said bridge until it shall have first entered into an understanding and agreement with the proper authorities of the state of Oregon or the county of Multnomah in said state having charge of the maintenance and operation of said bridge, that the same shall be maintained and operated without the imposition and collection of tolls for pedestrians, horse drawn vehicles and privately owned motor vehicles.

Not to purchase until agreement with Oregon to maintain free of tolls.

SEC. 3. Whenever such purchase price is paid the same shall be placed in the interstate bridge fund of said county for payment therefrom of all outstanding bonds with interest accrued thereon and all existing maintenance charges and other charges and indebtedness on account of the aforesaid portion of such bridge, and after payment of all such indebtedness and charges any balance remaining in said interstate bridge fund of said county shall be transferred to the general road and bridge fund of such county to be expended according to law.

Purchase price.

Pay all county bridge indebtedness.

Balance to road and bridge fund of Clark county.

SEC. 4. In case of the failure to agree upon a purchase price as above provided for or in the event that Clark county is unable to secure and deliver full and indefeasible title as above specified the state highway committee of the State of Washington may in its discretion, and it is hereby empowered so to do, commence in the superior court of Clark county, Washington, in the name of the State of Washington

Failure to agree upon price; unable to deliver title.

Condemnation proceedings by highway committee.

Washington and Oregon to operate bridge free of tolls.

and prosecute to conclusion, condemnation proceedings under the provisions of section 891, *et seq.*, Remington's Compiled Statutes of the State of Washington, for the acquisition of all interest of such portion of aforesaid bridge with payment of award from such funds as may hereafter be made available by the legislature for the purposes of this act, in the discretion of said committee and upon the certificate of the attorney general.

May collect tolls from street railways and motor vehicles operated for hire.

SEC. 5. From and after the time when the State of Washington shall acquire from Clark county the aforesaid portion of said bridge the same shall be maintained and operated by the state, in conjunction with the proper authorities of the state of Oregon or the county of Multnomah having charge of the maintenance and operation of the other portion of said bridge, without the imposition and collection of tolls from pedestrians, horse drawn vehicles or privately owned motor vehicles, but the state may impose and collect such tolls for the use of such bridge by street and interurban railways, auto transportation companies and motor vehicles operated for hire as the state highway committee of the State of Washington and the proper authorities of the state of Oregon or the county of Multnomah may agree upon and prescribe.

Submission to voters of Clark county.

SEC. 6. The county commissioners of Clark county are hereby authorized to submit to a vote of the electors of Clark county at a special election the proposition to sell under the terms of this act at such price as they may desire to submit. The time and manner of holding the election, and the notice to be given thereof, shall be such as the board of county commissioners may prescribe.

Passed the Senate March 4, 1927.

Passed the House March 9, 1927.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 1927.