

CHAPTER 235.

[ S. B. 280. ]

DISTRIBUTION OF GAS TAX MONIES.

AN ACT authorizing and directing the appointment of a legislative committee to employ a non-resident person or firm to make a study of county road requirements, percentages and complete system of state's distribution of gas tax monies to the various counties; requiring that said study and report be retained by the makers as confidential and published for first time after convening of the next legislature; making appropriation out of counties' present share of gas tax monies for payment of necessary fees and expenses in connection with such study and report, and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate are hereby authorized and directed to appoint three (3) members, respectively, from the House and from the Senate to serve as an Interim Committee, until the meeting of the next legislature in January, 1945, in accordance with the following provisions and for the following purposes:

Interim committee created.

Said Committee, before the close of the present session, shall meet, select a Chairman and Secretary thereof and shall designate a time and place for its next meeting to be held within thirty (30) days after the close of this legislative session for purposes of considering the selection and employment of a non-resident expert, or more than one such expert to make a complete and exhaustive study, report and recommendations regarding distribution of gas tax moneys to the various counties for the legislature meeting in January of 1945. Such non-resident expert or experts shall be by said Committee hired for such purposes within four (4) months after the close of the present session.

Purposes.

Employ experts.

Study and report.

SEC. 2. After the hiring of such expert or experts as provided in section 1 hereof, the Committee

Committee duties limited.

Approval of  
vouchers.

shall have no further duties other than through its Chairman and its Secretary to approve any and all vouchers submitted by such expert or experts for payment of wages, salaries and expenses incurred in making said study, report and recommendations, and to see that the provisions of section 3 hereof are fully carried out by the person or persons, hired by said Committee.

Experts to  
make study  
and report.

SEC. 3. Any person or persons, so hired by said Committee shall make a complete and exhaustive study and report of the road fund needs of each county, considering any and all factors entering into or in any manner affecting the construction, maintenance and operations of county roads. Such study and report shall include but shall not be limited to:

Report to  
include.

(1) An examination of the present county roads in each county and consideration of future road requirements for such county; (2) examination of the use to which gas tax moneys are now devoted in and the estimated future requirements of each county; (3) adequacies or inadequacies of the present system of statutory percentage, allocation and distribution of state gas tax moneys to the various counties.

Compilers  
to submit  
recom-  
mendations.

After the completion of the aforesaid study and report, the compiler or compilers thereof shall make such recommendations as in the opinion of the compiler or compilers may seem necessary to acquire for the state a fair, just and equitable distribution of state gas tax moneys for county road purposes. The study, report, recommendations, data, information, formula, factors and all things pertaining thereto shall be kept entirely confidential, disclosed to no person and shall be submitted to the legislature one (1) week after the convening of the January, 1945, session for the first opening, examination and publication thereof.

Findings  
confidential.

Submit to  
legislature.

SEC. 4. Any and all information in the various state and county offices in any manner pertaining to county roads and distribution of gas tax moneys shall be made available to the compilers for their aforesaid study and report upon their request therefor.

Data to be available.

SEC. 5. Members of the aforesaid Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be allowed their reasonable and necessary expenses in traveling to and from committee meetings and while attending such meetings.

Committee to receive expenses.

SEC. 6. There is hereby appropriated from the Motor Vehicle Fund, said appropriation to be made from the net tax amount in the Motor Vehicle Fund available for allocation to counties, the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), or so much thereof as shall be necessary, which sum shall be available for fees, salaries, wages in such amount as the Committee may determine and expenses incurred in connection with the making of the aforesaid report and survey, which moneys shall be paid upon vouchers approved by the Chairman and Secretary of the aforesaid Committee. Any balance remaining in the fund at the completion of the report and survey shall be distributed among the various counties in accordance with the present percentages of distribution of gas tax monies to said counties.

Appropriation from M. V. fund.

SEC. 7. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Effective immediately.

Passed the Senate March 4, 1943.

Passed the House March 10, 1943.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1943.