

CHAPTER 394.

[H. B. 384.]

PUBLIC LANDS—SALES, LEASES.

AN ACT relating to the sale and leasing of lands and areas belonging to or held in trust by the state and amending sections 24 and 59, chapter 255, Laws of 1927 and RCW 79.12.030 and RCW 79.12.260.

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

SECTION 1. Section 24, chapter 255, Laws of 1927 and RCW 79.12.030 are each amended to read as follows: Amendment.

Not more than one hundred and sixty acres of any land granted to the state by the United States shall be offered for sale in one parcel and no university lands shall be offered for sale except with the consent of the board of regents of the University of Washington. Limitation on sale of lands; amount.

Any land granted to the state by the United States, except capitol building lands, may be sold or leased for any lawful purpose in such minimum areas as may be fixed by the commissioner of public lands, except that upon the application of a cemetery association for the purchase of school land for a cemetery site or sites, not less than one nor more than ten acres may be offered, and upon the application of a school district for the purchase of a schoolhouse site or sites on any school land, not less than three nor more than ten acres may be offered for sale, and in all cases where a schoolhouse is or may be erected upon any school land the school district to which the schoolhouse belongs shall have the preference right for six months after the filing of the final appraisal of such school land to purchase the schoolhouse sites, to include the land occupied by the schoolhouse and grounds, at the appraised value thereof. Minimum acreage.
Special limitations on amount sold or leased.
Preference right.

Limitation on lease of land granted state for educational purposes.

Land granted to the state for educational purposes shall not be leased for a longer period than five years except that such lands may be leased for the purpose of prospecting for, developing and producing oil, gas and other hydrocarbon substances or for the mining of coal or for commercial or business purposes for any period not exceeding twenty years with a preferential right to a new lease covering such lands for an additional period not exceeding twenty years.

Amendment.

SEC. 2. Section 59, chapter 255, Laws of 1927 and RCW 79.12.260 are each amended to read as follows:

Division of contracts and leases permitted, limitations on.

Whenever the holder of a contract of purchase of any state lands, except capitol building lands, or of any tide or shore lands, or the holder of any lease of any such lands, except for mining of valuable minerals, or coal, or extraction of petroleum or gas, shall surrender the same to the commissioner with the request to have it divided into two or more contracts, or leases, the commissioner may divide the same and issue new contracts, or leases, but no new contract, or lease, shall issue while there is due and unpaid any interest, rental, or taxes or assessments on the land held under such contract or lease, nor in any case where the commissioner is of the opinion that the state's security would be impaired or endangered by the proposed division. For all such new contracts, or leases, a fee of two dollars for each new contract, or lease, issued, shall be paid by the applicant and such fee shall be paid into the state treasury with other fees of the office.

Fee.

Passed the House March 7, 1955.

Passed the Senate March 6, 1955.

Approved by the Governor March 22, 1955.