

CHAPTER 226.

[ S. B. 489. ]

IRRIGATION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to irrigation districts; permitting certain districts to become irrigation and rehabilitation districts; and adding a new chapter to Title 87 RCW.

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

New chapter.

SECTION 1. There is added to Title 87 RCW a new chapter to read as set forth in sections 2 through 8 of this act.

Irrigation and rehabilitation districts. Qualification.

SEC. 2. Any irrigation district which is located on or adjacent to an inland body of water and which has filed with the director of conservation and been granted rights as to fifty thousand acre feet of water or more shall be eligible to become an irrigation and rehabilitation district as provided in this chapter.

Initiated by petition—Contents.

SEC. 3. A petition to convert an existing irrigation district to an irrigation and rehabilitation district shall be signed by at least fifty holders of title or evidence of title to land within the district. The petition shall contain the following:

- (1) The legal description of the property to be served.
- (2) The signature and address of each petitioner, together with the legal description of the lands within the district owned by each.
- (3) Any other matter deemed material.

The petition shall be accompanied by a bond, to be approved by the board, in double the amount of the probable cost of organizing the district, and conditioned that the bondsman will pay all the costs if the organization is not effected.

Hearing—notice.

SEC. 4. A notice of hearing and a hearing on the petition shall be held as provided by RCW 87.01.030 and 87.01.040.

SEC. 5. A notice of election and election shall be held to determine whether the electors desire to convert the existing irrigation district to an irrigation and rehabilitation district.

Election—  
Notice.

The notice of election and election shall be governed by the applicable provisions of chapter 87.01 RCW relating to the original formation of districts.

SEC. 6. In addition to the purposes for which irrigation districts may be organized under RCW 87.01.010, an irrigation and rehabilitation district may also be organized or maintained to further the rehabilitation or improvement of inland lakes and shore lines and the modification or improvement of existing or planned control structures located in the district in order to further the health, recreation, and welfare of the residents in the area.

Purposes of  
district.

SEC. 7. The directors of the irrigation and rehabilitation district shall be the same as of the irrigation district and the directors shall retain all authority granted to them as directors of an irrigation district by RCW 87.01.210 as now or hereafter amended, and in addition shall have authority to rehabilitate or improve all or a portion of any inland body of water including adjacent shore lines located in the district and shall have the further power of modifying or improving any existing or planned water control structure located in the district in order to further the health, recreation, and welfare of the residents in the district.

District  
directors—  
Authority.

All rights held by the irrigation district to water located wholly or partially in the district including but not limited to rights granted by the Washington state supervisor of water resources shall upon formation of the irrigation and rehabilitation district immediately vest in the irrigation and rehabilitation district and in addition all water in the newly formed district as to which the prior district had any rights shall be held by the new district for all the beneficial

Transfer and  
vesting of dis-  
trict water  
rights.

uses and purposes for which the irrigation and rehabilitation district is formed.

Assessments—  
Election for  
special  
assessments.

SEC. 8. The directors shall be empowered to specially assess land located in the district for benefits thereto taking as a basis the last equalized assessment for county purposes: *Provided*, That such assessment shall not exceed one mill upon such assessed valuation without securing authorization by vote of the electors of the district at an election called for that purpose.

The board shall give notice of such an election, for the time and in the manner and form provided for irrigation district elections. The manner of conducting and voting at such an election, opening and closing polls, canvassing the votes, certifying the returns, and declaring the result shall be nearly as practicable the same as in irrigation district elections.

The special assessment provided for herein shall be due and payable at such times and in such amounts as designated by the district directors, which designation shall be made to the county auditor in writing, and the amount so designated shall be added to the general taxes, and entered upon the assessment rolls in his office, and collected therewith.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1961.

Passed the House March 8, 1961.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1961.