

CHAPTER 200.

[S. B. 30.]

CORPORATIONS—SEAL.

AN ACT relating to corporate seals.

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

SECTION 1. The absence of a corporate seal on any deed, mortgage, lease, bond or other instrument or contract in writing shall not affect its validity, legality or character in any respect.

Effect of absence of corporate seal.

Passed the Senate February 8, 1957.

Passed the House March 12, 1957.

Approved by the Governor March 22, 1957.

CHAPTER 201.

[S. B. 72.]

COUNTY CLERK—DESTRUCTION, USE OF RECORDS.

AN ACT relating to court records, exhibits and other records; adding two new sections to chapter 36.23 RCW and amending section 1, chapter 277, Laws of 1947 and RCW 36.23.070.

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

SECTION 1. There is added to chapter 36.23 RCW a new section to read as follows:

New section.

Notwithstanding any other law relating to the destruction of court records, the county clerk may cause to be destroyed all documents, records, instruments, books, papers, depositions, and transcripts, in any action or proceeding in the superior court, or otherwise filed in his office pursuant to law, if all of the following conditions exist:

Destruction of court records—Conditions requisite to.

(1) Ten years have elapsed since the filing of any paper in the action or proceeding and the records of the county clerk do not show that the

Destruction
of court
records—
Conditions
requisite to.

action or proceeding is pending on appeal in any court.

(2) The county clerk maintains for the use of the public a photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic or similar reproduction of each document, record, instrument, book, paper, deposition, or transcript so destroyed.

(3) At the time of the taking of said photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic or similar reproduction, the county clerk or other person under whose direction and control the same was taken, attached thereto, or to the sealed container in which the same was placed and has been kept, or incorporated in said photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic or similar reproduction, a certification that the copy is a correct copy of the original, or of a specified part thereof, as the case may be, the date on which taken, and the fact it was taken under his direction and control. The certificate must be under the official seal of the certifying officer, if there be any, or if he be the clerk of a court having a seal, under the seal of such court.

(4) The county clerk promptly seals and stores at least one original negative of each such photographic film, microphotographic, photostatic or similar reproduction in such manner and place as reasonably to assure its preservation indefinitely against loss, theft, defacement, or destruction.

New section.

SEC. 2. There is added to chapter 36.23 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Prints processed under section 1, as evidence.

Any print, whether enlarged or not, from any photographic film, including any photographic plate, microphotographic film, or photostatic negative or similar reproduction, of any original record, document, instrument, book, paper, deposition or transcript which has been processed in accordance with the provisions of section 1 of this act, and has been

certified by the county clerk under his official seal as a true copy, may be used in all instances, including introduction in evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding, that the original record, document, instrument, book, paper, deposition or transcript might have been used, and shall have the full force and effect of said original for all purposes.

SEC. 3. Section 1, chapter 277, Laws of 1947 and RCW 36.23.070 are each amended to read as follows:

RCW 36.23.070 amended.

A county clerk may at any time more than ten years after the entry of final judgment in any action apply to the superior court for an authorizing order and, upon such order being signed and entered, destroy any exhibits which have theretofore been filed in such cause: *Provided*, That any exhibits which are deemed to possess historical value may be directed to be delivered by the clerk to libraries or historical societies.

Destruction of certain exhibits authorized.

Proviso.

Passed the Senate March 5, 1957.

Passed the House March 12, 1957.

Approved by the Governor March 22, 1957.