

CHAPTER 162.

[S. B. 217.]

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to fire protection districts; permitting cities of the fourth class to be included therein; and amending section 1, chapter 34, Laws of 1939, as last amended by section 1, chapter 121, Laws of 1943 (section 5654-101, Rem. Supp. 1943, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 540-1), and section 3, chapter 70, Laws of 1941, which added a new section known as 16a to chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (section 5654-116a, Rem. Supp. 1941, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 540-33), and section 22, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (section 5654-122, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 540-45).

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

SECTION 1. Section 1, chapter 34, Laws of 1939, as last amended by section 1, chapter 121, Laws of 1943 (section 5654-101, Rem. Supp. 1943, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 540-1), is amended to read as follows: Amendments.

Section 1. Fire-protection districts for the elimination of fire hazards and for the protection of life and property from fire in territories outside of incorporated cities and towns and in territories including one or more cities of the fourth class are hereby authorized to be established as in this act provided. Fire protection districts authorized.

SEC. 2. Section 13a, as added to chapter 34, Laws of 1939 by section 3, chapter 70, Laws of 1941 (section 5654-116a, Rem. Supp. 1941, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 540-33), is amended to read as follows: Amendments.

Section 16a. Any territory contiguous to a fire-protection district and not within the boundaries of an incorporated city of the first, second or third class or other fire-protection district may be annexed to such fire-protection district, for the purpose of obtaining fire fighting protection or prevention facilities, by petition of fifteen per cent of the qualified registered electors residing within the territory Formation.

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proposed to be annexed: *Provided*, That if territory included in a city of the fourth class is annexed the entire territory within such fourth class city must be annexed as a unit. Such petition shall be filed with the Fire Commissioners of the fire-protection district and if the said Fire Commissioners shall concur in the said petition they shall then file such petition with the County Auditor who shall within thirty (30) days from the date of filing such petition examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. After the County Auditor shall have certified to the sufficiency of the petition, the proceedings thereafter by the Board of County Commissioners and the rights and powers and duties of petitioners and objectors and the election and canvass thereof shall be the same as in the original proceedings to form a fire-protection district: *Provided, however*, That the special election shall be held only within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to said fire-protection district. Upon the entry of the order of the Board of County Commissioners incorporating such contiguous territory with such existing fire-protection districts, said territory shall become subject to the indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, of said existing district in like manner as the territory of said district. Should such petition be signed by all of the qualified registered electors residing within the territory proposed to be annexed, and should the Fire Commissioners concur therein, an election in such territory and a hearing on such petition shall be dispensed with and the Board of County Commissioners shall enter its order incorporating such territory within the said existing fire-protection district.

Amend-
ments.

SEC. 3. Section 22, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (section 5654-122, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 540-45), is amended to read as follows:

Section 22. The affairs of the district shall be managed by a Board of Fire Commissioners composed of three (3) qualified resident electors of the district. The members of the Board of Fire Commissioners shall receive no compensation for their services rendered the district, but shall receive necessary expenses in attending meetings of the Board or when otherwise engaged on district business. The Board shall fix the compensation to be paid the secretary and all other agents and employees of the district. The first Fire Commissioners of the district shall serve until after the next general election for the selection of District Fire Commissioners and until their successors have been elected or appointed and have qualified as provided by law. When a fire district includes one or more cities of the fourth class the Board of Fire Commissioners herein created shall have authority over all matters relating to fire prevention and fire protection and elimination of fire hazards and such authority shall supersede all authority of the town councils of such fourth class cities as to such matters.

Board of
fire com-
missioners.

Passed the Senate February 25, 1945.

Passed the House March 5, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 15, 1945.