PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS—FORMATION.

An Act relating to public hospital districts; amending section 3, chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and RCW 70.44.020; adding a new section to chapter 70.44 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3, chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and RCW 70.44.020 are each amended to read as follows:

At any general election or at any special election which may be called for that purpose the board of county commissioners of a county may, or on petition of ten percent of the electors of the county based on the total vote cast in the last general county election, shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the county the proposition of creating a public hospital district coextensive with the limits of the county. The petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall within fifteen days examine the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency thereof, and for that purpose he shall have access to all registration books in the possession of election officers in the county. If the petition is found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing it, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days, when it shall be returned to the auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine it and attach his certificate thereto. No person signing the petition may withdraw his name therefrom after filing. When the petition is certified as sufficient, the auditor shall forthwith transmit it, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the commissioners, who shall immediately transmit the proposition to the supervisor of elections or other election officer of the county, and he shall submit
the proposition to the voters at the next general
election or if such petition so requests, he shall call
a special election on such proposition not less than
thirty nor more than ninety days from the date of
said certificate. The notice of the election shall state
the boundaries of the proposed district and the ob-
ject of the election, and shall in other respects con-
form to the requirements of law governing the time
and manner of holding elections. In submitting the
question to the voters, the proposition shall be ex-
pressed on the ballot substantially in the following
terms:

For public hospital district No. .......
Against public hospital district No. .......

Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 70.44 RCW a
new section to read as follows:

Each and all of the respective areas of land here-
tofores previously attempted to be organized into public hos-

tpital districts under the provisions of this chapter
are validated and declared to be duly existing hos-

tpital districts having the respective boundaries set
forth in their organization proceedings as shown by
the files in the office of the board of county commis-
ioners of the county in question, and by the files of
such districts.

Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the promotion
of the public welfare, the immediate support of the
state government and its existing public institutions
and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1955.
Passed the House March 6, 1955.
Approved by the Governor March 14, 1955.