

CHAPTER 49.

[H. B. 157.]

HIGHWAYS—ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.

AN ACT relating to highways and acquisition of property therefor; authorizing options for purchase of rights of way for proposed projects or sections to permit review by highway commission prior to final adoption or acquisition.

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

SECTION 1. Whenever it becomes necessary or feasible to purchase rights of way for state highways, and the Washington state highway commission deems it to be in the best interest of the general public, the commission may, and it is hereby authorized, to secure options for purchase of property needed or proposed for any entire project or section thereof or proposed alignment for the location or relocation of any highway, for review by the commission before final adoption or acquisition. Options.

Passed the House February 3, 1955.

Passed the Senate February 15, 1955.

Approved by the Governor February 24, 1955.

CHAPTER 50.

[H. B. 341.]

ELECTIONS—ABSENTEE VOTING.

AN ACT relating to absentee voting; amending section 5, chapter 41, Laws of 1933 extraordinary session and RCW 29.36.060 and 29.36.070; and adding a new section to chapter 29.36 RCW.

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

SECTION 1. Section 5, chapter 41, Laws of 1933 extraordinary session, (heretofore codified as RCW 29.36.060 and 29.36.070) is divided and amended as set forth in sections 2 and 3 of this act. Division and amendment.

Enacted
without
amendment.

SEC. 2. (RCW 29.36.060) Commencing on the sixth day after any election or primary in which absentee voters have participated, the canvassing board shall examine the postmarks, receipt marks and affidavits on the outer envelopes containing absentee ballots and shall open each outer envelope post-marked or received (if not delivered by mail) not later than the primary or election day and upon which the affidavit has been executed according to law in such a way as not to mar the affidavit, the inner envelope or the ballot.

Upon the inner envelopes thus produced must be written the precinct name or number, city and county appearing on the outer envelope which contained it and no other mark except the signatures of the canvassing board.

The inner envelopes thus marked must be filed by the county auditor under lock and key. The outer envelopes to which must be attached the corresponding original absentee voters' certificates shall be sealed securely in one package and shall be kept by the auditor for future use in case any question should arise as to the validity of the vote.

This Section amended by Sec. 7, Chap. 167, Laws of 1955.

Canvass.

SEC. 3. (RCW 29.36.070) Upon the canvass of the votes, if there are on file one or more absentee ballot inner envelopes, the canvassing authority shall cause such envelopes to be opened and the ballots to be grouped and counted without regard as to precinct by legislative districts if the election is a state primary or state election, special or general.

These ballots shall be made a part of the returns and handled accordingly.

New section.

SEC. 4. There is added to chapter 29.36 RCW, a new section to read as follows:

List of voters.

After the completion of the canvass of the election returns of any primary or election, the canvassing authority shall cause the names of the persons

casting absentee ballots to be listed alphabetically and by precincts, according to incorporated and unincorporated areas. Such lists of absentee voters shall be sent to the appropriate registration officer who shall enter on the respective voter's registration record in the space provided for that purpose, the month, day and year of the primary or election (for example 11/2/54): *Provided*, That no precinct office shall appear upon an absentee ballot.

Passed the House February 9, 1955.

Passed the Senate February 16, 1955.

Approved by the Governor February 24, 1955.

CHAPTER 51.

[Sub. H. B. 185.]

CLASS AA COUNTIES—HEALTH CARE AND GROUP INSURANCE.

AN ACT relating to counties; authorizing class AA counties to enter into health care service and group insurance contracts for the benefit of their employees; adding a new section to chapter 36.32 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. There is added to chapter 36.32 RCW, New section.
a new section to read as follows:

Any class AA county by a majority vote of its Insurance
contracts;
authorized.
board of county commissioners may enter into contracts to provide health care services and/or group insurance for the benefit of its employees, and may Payment.
pay all or any part of the cost thereof.

SEC. 2. This act is necessary for the immediate Emergency.
support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 8, 1955.

Passed the Senate February 18, 1955.

Approved by the Governor February 25, 1955.