

CHAPTER 80.

[House Bill No. 307.]

WATER MASTERS.

AN ACT relating to regulation of waters in the state of Washington; authorizing the appointment of water masters and the creation of water master districts; amending section 9, chapter 117, Laws of 1917, as amended by section 2, chapter 123, Laws of 1947, and RCW 90.03.060; and amending section 10, chapter 117, Laws of 1917 and RCW 90.03.070.

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

RCW 90.03.060 amended.

Section 1. Section 9, chapter 117, Laws of 1917 as amended by section 2, chapter 123, Laws of 1947 and RCW 90.03.060 are each amended to read as follows:

Water and water rights. Water masters —Appointment —Compensation—Contribution by counties.

Water masters shall be appointed by the supervisor of water resources whenever he shall find the interests of the state or of the water users to require them. The districts for or in which the water masters serve shall be designated water master districts, which shall be fixed from time to time by the supervisor, as required, and they shall be subject to revision as to boundaries or to complete abandonment as local conditions may indicate to be expedient, the spirit of this provision being that no district shall be created or continued where the need for the same does not exist. Water masters shall be supervised by the supervisor of water resources, shall be compensated for services from funds of the department of conservation, division of water resources, and shall be technically qualified to the extent of understanding the elementary principals of hydraulics and irrigation, and of being able to make water measurements in streams and in open and closed conduits of all characters, by the usual methods employed for that purpose. Counties and municipal and public corporations of the state are authorized to contribute moneys to the department of conservation to be used as compensation to water masters in carrying

out their duties. All such moneys received by the department of conservation shall be used exclusively for said purpose.

Sec. 2. Section 10, chapter 117, Laws of 1917 and RCW 90.03.070 are each amended to read as follows:

RCW 90.03.070
amended.

It shall be the duty of the water master, acting under the direction of the supervisor of water resources, to divide in whole or in part, the water supply of his district among the several water conduits and reservoirs using said supply, according to the right and priority of each, respectively. He shall divide, regulate and control the use of water within his district by such regulation of headgates, conduits and reservoirs as shall be necessary to prevent the use of water in excess of the amount to which the owner of the right is lawfully entitled. Whenever, in the pursuance of his duties, the water master regulates a headgate of a water conduit or the controlling works of a reservoir, he shall attach to such headgate or controlling works a written notice, properly dated and signed, stating that such headgate or controlling works has been properly regulated and is wholly under his control and such notice shall be a legal notice to all parties. In addition to dividing the available waters and supervising the stream patrolmen in his district, he shall enforce such rules and regulations as the supervisor shall from time to time prescribe.

Water masters
—Duties—
Office space.

The county or counties in which water master districts are created shall depute the water masters appointed hereunder, and may without charge provide to each water master suitable office space, supplies, equipment and clerical assistance as are necessary to the water master in the performance of his duties.

Passed the House February 9, 1967.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1967.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1967.