

SEC. 15. This act is necessary for the immediate support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Effective
immediately.

Passed the House December 22, 1933.

Passed the Senate January 8, 1934.

Approved by the Governor January 18, 1934.

CHAPTER 60.

[S. B. 93.]

FIRE PREVENTION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to the formation, organization and government of fire prevention districts in areas outside of incorporated cities and towns in class "A" and first class counties; providing for a tax levy to maintain and operate the same; and for the election of and prescribing the duties of certain officers therein and prescribing the duties of certain other public officers in connection therewith.

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

SECTION 1. Fire protection districts for the protection of property from fire in territories outside of incorporated cities and towns are hereby authorized to be established in class "A" and first class counties, as in this act provided.

Fire prevention
districts
authorized.

SEC. 2. For the purpose of formation of a fire protection district, a petition designating the boundaries of the proposed district, metes and bounds, or describing lands to be included in the proposed district by United States townships, ranges and legal subdivisions, signed by not less than ten per cent (10%) of the qualified registered electors who are property owners, or who are buying property by contract, and who are resident within the bound areas of such district, and setting forth the object for the creation of such district, and the establish-

Petition for
formation.

ment of such district will be conducive to the public safety, welfare and convenience, and will be of benefit to the property included therein, shall be filed with the county auditor of the county within which such proposed district is located, accompanied by an obligation signed by two or more of the petitioners, agreeing to pay the cost of the publication of the notice hereinafter provided for. The county auditor shall, within ten days from the date of filing such petition examine the signatures and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof; and for such purpose shall have access to all registration books or records in the possession of the registration officers of the election precincts included, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of the proposed district. No person having signed such a petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor. If such petition shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures of qualified registered electors who are property owners or who are buying property by contract within the proposed district the county auditor shall transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the board of county commissioners, and thereupon the board of county commissioners, by resolution entered upon its minutes, shall fix a time and place for a public hearing within the district on such petition, which time shall be not less than thirty nor more than forty days from the date of filing of such petition with the board of county commissioners; and shall cause to be published in not less than two successive issues of the official newspaper of the county, and, in the discretion of the board, in not less than two successive issues in a newspaper of general circulation within the boundaries of the proposed district, a notice that such a petition has been presented, and

County auditor.

Petitioner may not withdraw name.

Resolution of county commissioners.

Publication.

stating the time and place at which a hearing will be had thereon.

SEC. 3. At the time and place fixed for the hearing on such petition, the board of county commissioners shall hear all persons resident of the proposed district appearing at such hearing, in favor of or opposed to the formation of such district, and shall determine whether the formation of such district, or a district including a portion or portions of the territory described in the petition, will be conducive to the public safety, welfare and convenience and of benefit to the property included within the district; and if the county commissioners of such county find said proposed fire prevention district will be conducive to the public safety, welfare and convenience and shall be of special benefit to the majority of land included within the boundaries of said proposed district, they shall by resolution call a special election to be held not less than thirty days from the date of such certificate, and shall cause to be published a notice of such election for four successive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which said proposed fire prevention district is located, which notice shall set the hours during which such polls will be open, boundaries of the proposed fire protection district as finally adopted by said county commissioners and object of such election, and the said notice shall also be posted for ten days in three public places in said proposed fire protection district. In submitting the said proposition to the voters for their approval or rejection, such proposition shall be expressed in the following terms:

Hearing.

Publication of notice of election.

Ballot.

Fire Protection District No..... YES.....
Fire Protection District No..... NO.....

giving in each instance the name of such district as may be desired by the board of county commissioners.

District shall vote for three commissioners.

SEC. 4. At the same election the qualified electors of the fire prevention district shall vote for the election of three non-salaried, non-partisan commissioners, each of whom shall have five days previous to the said election filed a petition of nomination, signed by twenty qualified residents of said district who shall upon election have the power and it shall be the duty of said fire district commissioners to adopt and from time to time amend and enforce reasonable rules and regulations defining fire protection and to charge against all lands included within said district the cost of such fire protection: *And provided further,* That they shall certify the assessment upon the property in said district to the commissioners of said county at the time of the making of the annual budget as provided by law: *And provided further,* That such assessment shall not be more than two mills upon the assessed valuation of said property.

Assessments.

Special fund established.

SEC. 5. In the office of the county treasurer of any county in which a fire protection district is established as provided by this act, there shall be created a special fund, to be known as the "Fire Protection District No..... Fund" and all assessments or fees collected for the administration of fire protection shall be credited to such fund, and all expenses incurred for fire protection within such district shall be charged to such fund, and shall be paid upon warrants issued under the direction of the board of county commissioners in accordance with the rules and regulations adopted, as hereinbefore in this act provided.

Delinquent assessments.

SEC. 6. In case any assessments for the administration of fire protection, provided for in the preceding section, are not paid at the times provided

for in such rules and regulations, it shall be the duty of the county auditor to certify that fact to the county treasurer, giving the respective amounts of the fees not paid, and describing the lands against which such fees were charged, and the respective dates when said fees were due and became delinquent; and upon receipt of such certificate, it shall be the duty of the county treasurer to charge such delinquent fees upon the current tax rolls of the county, against the lands described in the certificate as to the date when they became due, and such charge shall constitute a lien upon the lands against which the charge is made, and such charges shall be payable, together with interest at the rate provided by law for interest on delinquent taxes, from the date of the charge, and such charge shall be collected and such liens shall be foreclosed in the manner provided by law for the collection of, and the foreclosure of, liens for general county delinquent taxes.

Constitute
lien on
lands.

Passed the Senate December 30, 1933.

Passed the House January 11, 1934.

Approved by the Governor January 18, 1934.