

CHAPTER 31.

[S. B. 108.]

CREATING A VETERANS DEPARTMENT.

AN ACT relating to veterans; creating a Veterans Department; providing for its organization, powers, duties and responsibilities; prescribing the duties of certain officials; making an appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

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

Veterans Department.

Appointment of Director by Governor with Senate consent.

Salary.

Advisory council selected from veterans' organizations.

Vacancies.

SECTION 1. There shall be and is hereby created a Veterans Department. The chief executive officer thereof shall be an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States and designated the Director of Veterans Affairs and shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the senate and shall hold office at the pleasure of the Governor. If the senate be not in session when this act takes effect or if a vacancy occur while the senate is not in session, the Governor shall make a temporary appointment until the next meeting of the senate, when he shall present to the senate his recommendation for the office. The salary of the Director shall be established at not to exceed seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00) per annum, and he shall be required to furnish a bond in such an amount as may be fixed by the council.

The Governor shall appoint an advisory council to consist of a representative from a list of three names submitted from each of the following organizations: The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the United Spanish War Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and any other nationally chartered veterans organizations as chartered by Congress. Any vacancy that shall exist on the advisory council shall be replaced by appointment by the Governor in the same manner and from the same organizations where the vacancies exist. Each member of the advisory council shall receive ten

dollars (\$10) per diem for each day actually spent in the performance of his duties and his actual necessary traveling and other expenses in going to, attending and returning from meetings of the advisory council. It shall be the function and duty of such advisory council to aid the Director in formulating policies for the solution of problems relating to the administration of this act, and in furtherance of its duties, the Director shall, at least six times a year, convene a meeting of such advisory council.

Per diem expenses.

Duties.

Meetings.

SEC. 2. With the approval of the Governor, the department shall have the power to employ and to fix the compensation of and to prescribe the duties of such officers, employees and assistants as may be necessary, and to provide necessary quarters, supplies and equipment. Whenever possible all such officers, employees and assistants shall be veterans or dependents of veterans. It shall be the duty of the department to disburse the funds appropriated by this act and by any subsequent appropriation made for such purposes for the benefit of the former members of the armed forces of the United States who at the time of application are bona fide residents of the State of Washington and who served in the armed forces of the United States during time of war and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, including their wives, husbands, widows, widowers and dependents. The department may disburse such funds in such manner and for such purposes as, in its judgment, will facilitate and promote the return of such veterans to civil life and coordinate and cooperate with the United States Employment Service, the Veterans' Administration and any other federal agency and adopt such measures as may be necessary to provide employment or rehabilitation. All benefits under this act shall be supplementary to and not cumulative of benefits available under any act of Congress,

Employees.

Shall be veterans.

Funds to be used for veterans, wives, dependents.

Purpose of use.

Benefits supplementary not cumulative to Federal Acts.

and nothing herein shall be in duplication of benefits granted by any other state.

Powers of department. Act as veterans' agent.

The department may:

(a) Act as agent of any veteran of the state having claims against the United States arising from or connected with service in the armed forces and prosecute such claims without charge.

Compile records to insure rights.

(b) Compile and maintain such records of veterans or their wives, husbands, widows, widowers and dependents as may be necessary to insure that their rights be protected.

Cooperate in administration.

(c) Cooperate in the administration of laws for veterans' benefits.

Cooperate with other agencies.

(d) Cooperate with all national, state, county, municipal, private and social agencies in securing to veterans or their wives, husbands, widows, widowers and dependents the benefits provided by national, state and county laws, municipal ordinances or private and social agencies.

Aid to secure veterans' benefits.

(e) Aid generally in securing to veterans or their wives, husbands, widows, widowers and dependents all rights, privileges, immunities, preferences, compensations and benefits of all kinds, or advise veterans or their wives, husbands, widows, widowers and dependents as to their rights under any of the said veterans' laws, in any manner arising from or connected with the service of such veteran in the armed forces of the United States.

Other powers.

(f) Have such other powers as may be authorized by law and necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

Receive and expend gifts.

The department may receive gifts, donations and grants from any person or agency and may expend the same either according to the terms of the gift, donation or grant or in accordance with its best judgment.

Powers not limited.

The enumeration of specific powers and duties shall not be construed to exclude any other powers and duties. The department may, in its discretion,

have power to reimburse such bona fide veterans' organizations as, in the judgment of the department, may be properly qualified to prepare, present and prosecute claims for any veteran, wife, husband, widow, widower or dependent of such veteran for benefits provided by any act of Congress or otherwise: *Provided*, That no such reimbursement shall be made for any services, items of expense or capital investment except upon duly executed vouchers detailing specific services, items of expense, or capital investment made; *Provided further*, That no such reimbursement shall be made for any services so rendered prior to the effective date of this act. The department may appoint field representatives in such territories or places as may be deemed necessary by the department. The department shall maintain its principal office at the state capital. The department may establish and maintain branch offices at other places than the state capital for the conduct of one or more functions of the department.

Vouchers
must show
detail.

Department
offices.

SEC. 3. It shall be the duty of all state, county and municipal officers to render such aid to the department as shall be within their power and consistent with the duties of their respective offices.

Aid of
state-county
officers.

SEC. 4. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund of the State of Washington for the Veterans Department the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this act.

Appropriation.

SEC. 5. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word of this act for any reason shall be adjudged invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this act but shall be confined in its operation to the section, paragraph, sentence, clause or word of the act directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby expressly declared that had any section, paragraph,

Partial
invalidity.

sentence, clause or word as to which this act is declared invalid been eliminated from the act at the time the same was considered the act would nevertheless have been enacted with such portions eliminated.

Effective
immediately.

SEC. 6. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and for the immediate support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate February 12, 1945.

Passed the House February 28, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 5, 1945.

CHAPTER 32.

[S. B. 114.]

ISSUANCE OF FUNDING BONDS BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to the issuance of funding bonds by any school district; and amending section 12, [sub] chapter 10, Title III, chapter 97, Laws of 1909 (section 4952, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 879-23).

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

Amend-
ment.

SECTION 1. Section 12, [sub] chapter 10, title III, chapter 97, Laws of 1909 (section 4952, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 879-23), is hereby amended to read as follows:

Methods of
issuance of
refunding
bonds by
school
districts.

Section 12. Whenever any bonds lawfully issued by any school district under the provisions of this act shall reach maturity and shall remain unpaid, or may be paid under any option provided in the bonds, the board of directors thereof shall have the power without any vote of the school district to fund the same by issuing coupon bonds conformable to the requirements of this act and sell the same at not less than their par value and use the proceeds exclusively for