

urers of the various counties of this state, which said funds were collected for road purposes in certain road districts that have subsequently been abandoned by virtue of the incorporation of the territory of said road districts within the corporate limits of certain cities and towns of this state, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act shall be enforced from and after its passage.

Passed the House March 1, 1897.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1897.

Approved by the Governor March 17, 1897.

CHAPTER CVI.

[H. B. No. 393.]

AUTHORIZING CITIES AND TOWNS TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC PROPERTY.

AN ACT to authorize cities and towns which have purchased or constructed water works, or gas or electric light works, to lease or sell the same, and to ratify and confirm leases or sales of the same heretofore made by such cities and towns.

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

SECTION 1. Whenever any city or town in this state shall have purchased or constructed a system of water works, or a gas or electric light works, it shall be lawful for such city or town to sell such water works, or gas or electric light works, or to lease the same for a term of years, in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

Municipality
may sell or
lease water or
light plant.

SEC. 2. The council of such city or town shall ascertain, and by resolution declare, that the system of water works, or gas or electric light works, which it is proposed to sell or lease, cannot be operated by such city or town, so as to repay the cost and expense of operation, and interest on the capital invested therein, and the necessary depreciation thereof, and that the same is, or threatens to become, a burdensome charge upon the taxpayers of such city or town.

SEC. 3. After the passage of such resolution, and at any time before the next general election of officers for such city or town, it shall be lawful for the legislative authority of such city or town, by ordinance, to provide for the lease of such water works, or gas or electric light works, upon such terms and conditions as such ordinance may prescribe, and after the passage of such resolution, the legislative authority of such city or town shall, by ordinance, submit to the qualified electors thereof at the general city election, the question whether such water works, or gas or electric light works shall be sold or not; and if at such election a majority of said electors voting upon said question shall vote in the affirmative, it shall be lawful for such legislative authority to provide for the sale of, and to sell such water works, or gas or electric light works, upon such terms and conditions as such ordinance may prescribe.

SEC. 4. Whereas, certain cities and towns in this state have heretofore sold or leased their water works and electric light works, all such sales and leases are hereby ratified and confirmed in so far, only, as that no question as to the validity of such sales or leases shall be hereafter raised upon the ground that at the date of such sales or leases there was no lawful authority for the making of the same in the charter of such city or town.

Passed the House March 10, 1897.

Passed the Senate March 11, 1897.

Approved by the Governor March 17, 1897.

CHAPTER CVII.

[H. B. No. 162.]

RELATING TO OYSTER BEDS.

AN ACT to secure to the public the continued use of natural oyster beds.

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

Board of oyster
land commis-
sioners.

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the governor to appoint, upon petition of the county commissioners of any