

the chairman of the joint commission and allowed by him and when allowed shall be a joint charge against the road and bridge fund of each of the counties operating such ferry, as provided in section 3 of this act.

Impeachment
of commis-
sioner refus-
ing to act.

SEC. 5. The members of the board of county commissioners of each of said counties shall be members of said joint commission and their refusal to act shall be grounds for impeachment; and it shall be their duty to provide for the maintenance and operation of such ferry until it is discontinued by a majority vote of said joint commission.

Emergency.

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

Passed the Senate February 27, 1917.

Passed the House March 6, 1917.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1917.

CHAPTER 159.

[S. B. 104.]

ABSENTEE VOTING.

AN ACT relating to elections, and authorizing electors absent from their precincts of residence to vote at general elections and the primaries therefor, providing a penalty for violation and amending sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of chapter 189 of the Laws of 1915.

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

SECTION 1. That section 1 of chapter 189 of Laws of 1915 be amended to read as follows:

Absentee
voting
authorized.

Section 1. Any elector of the state unavoidably absent from his home county and more than twenty-five miles distant from the precinct in which he is qualified to vote, may vote in any polling place at which he may present himself during polling hours, at general elections to

be held for federal, United States senatorial and congressional, state or legislative officers, or propositions, or at any primary held for the purpose of nominations for any such election, in the manner provided for in this act.

SEC. 2. That section 2 of chapter 189 of Laws of 1915 be amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Any elector who shall present himself at any polling place within the state for a primary or general election mentioned in the preceding section, during the hours of voting thereat, presenting to the election officers of said polling place a certificate from the registration officer of the home precinct of said elector certifying that said registration officer is personally acquainted with said elector; that said elector is duly registered and qualified to vote in said home precinct, stating the place of residence of said elector; that said elector has in the presence of said registration officer affixed his signature to said certificate at a place to be designated "For Signature of Absent Voter": *Provided*, That said certificate shall be executed and signed in duplicate, the registration officer retaining one in his permanent files; the elector shall likewise present to the election officers a blank affidavit, to which he shall subscribe and swear before the inspector or one of the judges of said election. The oath to be subscribed to shall be as follows:

Voter's registration certificate.

Affidavit of voter.

State of Washington, }
County of } ss.

I,, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a resident and qualified elector in the precinct (or ward) of city, in the county of, State of Washington, duly registered as such, and am entitled to vote at any election, primary or general, held thereon [therein] on this day; that the polling place within said precinct or ward is not in this county and is more than twenty-five miles herefrom; that this election is common in its main features to both my home precinct and this precinct; that I have had no opportunity to

vote thereat; that I will be unable to reach my home voting precinct this day; that I shall lose my vote by reason thereof unless permitted to vote herein, and that I have not voted and will not vote elsewhere at this election.

.....

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, 19....

.....

..... of election precinct (or ward) of city,county, Washington.

SEC. 3. That section 3 of chapter 189 of the Laws of 1915 be amended to read as follows:

Section 3. Upon the elector taking such oath he shall be given an official ballot taken from the highest numbers, which he shall take to a voting booth and mark the same as any resident voter may, except that he shall vote only for federal, United States senatorial and congressional, state and legislative officers, and for which he might vote in his home precinct, or for the nomination thereof, and for this purpose he may write in the names of any candidate or candidates under the proper headings in such ballot, and after marking the same shall fold such ballot and hand it to one of the judges or inspector of election, but such ballot shall not be deposited in the ballot box of such precinct nor entered upon the poll books of such precinct among the names of resident voters. The ballot shall be accompanied by his certificate and by the affidavit made by said voter, but same shall not be attached thereto. The ballot shall be securely sealed in a smaller inside envelope by the voter and by him delivered to the election officers, together with the affidavit just above referred to. The smaller inside envelope shall have no mark upon it, which may serve to identify it or the ballot within it with the voter. Upon receipt by the election officers of the ballot sealed as above stated together with the affidavit of the voter executed in due and regular form they shall securely seal both said sealed ballot and said certificate

Manner of voting.

and affidavit in a larger outside envelope, and upon this larger outside envelope shall be printed the following:

ABSENT VOTER'S BALLOT.

Name
Residence, (street or house)
Home precinct (or ward)
City
County
Date

We, the election officers of precinct (or ward), city of, county of, State of Washington, hereby certify that the ballot, together with the oath of the above named voter, was received by us and sealed in this envelope at the election held on the date aforesaid.

.....
Inspector.
.....
Judge.
.....
Judge.

Said statement upon the outside of said larger outside envelope shall be properly filled out and signed by the election officers.

SEC. 4. Such larger outside envelope when so sealed and certified shall be returned by the officers of election where such vote was cast to the county auditor of the county in which such voter cast his vote, along with the other election returns, and upon receipt of such envelopes the county auditors shall forward the same to the county auditor where the voter claims residence. Upon receipt by the county auditor of the county where the voter claims his residence of any such envelope it shall be the duty of the county auditor in the presence of the county clerk and county attorney to open said larger outside envelope in such a way as not to injure the seal or in any way open the smaller inside envelope containing the ballot, and to remove said smaller envelope containing the ballot and

Return of ballot to voter's home county.

mark upon the outside of said inside envelope the name or number of the precinct (or ward), city and county in which the ballot is to be counted and nothing whereby the identity of the voter can be known. If the voter's affidavit is in due and regular form the envelope containing the ballot shall be signed by the opening officers above named and approved as a valid vote. The opening officers shall then seal securely in one package the larger outside envelopes, certificates and affidavits of voters contained therein, attached securely together and kept by said auditor for future use in case any question shall arise as to the validity of the vote. The smaller inside envelopes containing the ballots shall be filed by the said auditor and kept securely locked until the time for canvassing the votes of such county. Upon the canvassing of the votes by the canvassing board of such county, whenever any precinct is called in which there shall be on file one or more such envelopes, the board shall cause such envelopes to be opened, and shall canvass and count the same for such precinct as nearly as possible in the same manner as such votes would have been counted had they been cast in such precinct, entering the same in the poll book as absent voters, and shall modify the election returns of such precinct accordingly. Such ballot shall become a part of the returns of such precinct, and shall be kept or destroyed accordingly: *Provided, however,* Such ballot shall not be canvassed or counted unless received by the auditor within six days from the date of said general or primary election.

Canvass and counting.

SEC. 5. The vote of any absent voter may be challenged for any cause at the time the same is canvassed by the canvassing board of the county, and the said canvassing board shall have all the power and authority given by law to officers of election to determine herein the legality of such ballot.

Challenges.

SEC. 6. The officers or persons who are now, or may hereafter be required by law to furnish supplies to officers of registration, shall furnish therewith a supply of blank

Election supplies for absentee voting.

affidavits, envelopes and certificates, as herein required, and there shall be provided also in each election poll book a separate registration for absent voters. Any elector receiving the certificate required in section 2 of this act shall also receive a blank affidavit and envelopes, as required by this act, from the registration officer, and which affidavit and envelopes the elector will present to the election officers at the time he offers to vote.

SEC. 7. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this act, relating to swearing and voting, shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than five years. Penalty.

Passed the Senate February 26, 1917.

Passed the House March 6, 1917.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1917.

CHAPTER 160.

[S. B. 96.]

LICENSING PRACTICE OF MIDWIFERY.

AN ACT relating to the practice of midwifery, regulating the same, providing for the examination and licensing of applicants, and providing penalties for the violation of this act.

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

SECTION 1. Any person who shall practice midwifery in this state after July first, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, shall first obtain from the state board of medical examiners of the State of Washington a license so to do, and the said board is authorized to grant such license after examination of the applicant as hereinafter provided. License required.

SEC. 2. Any person seeking to be examined shall present to the said board, at least ten days before the commencement of the said examination, a written application on a form or forms provided by the said board setting forth under affidavit the name, age, nativity, residence, Application for license.