

county of an adjoining state or county which has joined in the construction or operation of any such interstate bridge, in granting the right to use such tracks to persons, municipalities or corporations operating over such interstate bridge.

Passed the Senate February 23, 1917.

Passed the House March 6, 1917.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1917.

CHAPTER 158.

[S. B. 302.]

JOINT COUNTY FERRIES.

AN ACT relating to the purchase, construction, maintenance and operation of ferries on the boundary line between two counties, and providing that this act shall take effect immediately.

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

SECTION 1. Whenever a river, lake or other body of water is on the boundary line between two counties in this state, the boards of county commissioners of the counties adjoining such stream or body of water may construct, purchase, equip, maintain and operate a ferry across such river, lake or other body of water, when such ferry shall connect the county roads or other public highways of their respective counties. All costs and expenses of constructing, purchasing, maintaining and operating such ferry shall be paid by the two counties, each paying such proportion thereof as shall be agreed upon by the boards of county commissioners.

SEC. 2. In order to carry out the provisions of section one of this act, the boards of county commissioners of the two counties shall meet in joint session at the county seat of one of the counties interested, and shall elect one of their members as chairman of the joint board of commissioners, who shall act as such chairman during the remainder of his term of office, and, at the expiration of his

Joint county
maintenance
of ferries.

Joint board
of county
commis-
sioners.

term of office, the two boards of county commissioners shall meet and elect a new chairman, who shall act as such chairman during his term of office as county commissioner, and they shall continue to elect a chairman in like manner thereafter. The county auditors of each of said counties shall be clerks of such joint commission, and the county auditor of the county where each meeting is held shall act as clerk of the commission at all meetings held in his county. It shall be the duty of each county auditor, as soon as such joint commission is organized, to procure a record book and enter therein a complete record of the proceedings of such joint commission, and the county auditor of the county in which the meeting is held shall, immediately after adjournment of such commission, forward a complete copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the commission to the auditor of the other county to be entered by him in his record, and each county shall keep a complete record of the proceedings of such commission.

Officers.

Records
of joint
commission.

SEC. 3. Said joint commission shall be authorized to transact all business necessary in carrying out the purposes of this act, and their said acts shall be binding upon the two counties, and one-half of all bills and obligations created by such joint commission shall be binding and a legal charge against the road and bridge fund of each county and the claims for same shall be allowed and paid out of the road and bridge fund the same as other claims against said fund by the respective boards of county commissioners: *Provided*, That if the estimated cost of constructing or purchasing a ferry shall exceed the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00), the same shall be done by contract in the same manner as the letting of contracts for bridges, except in case of emergency.

Expenses
a joint
liability.

Payment.

SEC. 4. That all claims and accounts for the construction, operation and maintenance of such ferry or ferries shall be presented to and audited by the joint commission: *Provided*, That items of expense connected with the operation of such ferry which do not exceed the sum of thirty dollars (\$30.00) in amount may be presented to

Audit and
allowance
of claims.

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