

district shall be entitled to reimbursement from federal funds available for the provisions of vocational education for the expenditures made for the salaries of teachers of such part-time schools or classes and such reimbursement shall be apportioned by the State Board.

SEC. 13. The officer charged by law with the responsibility for enforcement of attendance upon regular public schools of children over eight (8) years of age shall also be charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of attendance upon part-time schools or classes of minors over fourteen (14) and under eighteen (18) years of age in accordance with the provisions of this act.

Enforcement
of attend-
ance.

SEC. 14. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Repealing
clause.

Passed the Senate March 3, 1919.

Passed the House March 11, 1919.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1919.

CHAPTER 152.

[S. B. 70.]

DESTRUCTION OF ANIMAL PESTS INJURIOUS TO AGRICULTURE.

AN ACT relating to the destruction or extermination of rodents and other animal pests detrimental to the agricultural interests in any community, providing a fund therefor, the creation of pest districts, and the levying of taxes or assessments thereon.

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

SECTION 1. For the purpose of destroying or exterminating squirrels, prairie dogs, gophers, moles or other rodents, or of rabbits or any predatory animals that destroy or interfere with the

Agricultural
pest
districts.

crops, fruit trees, shrubs, valuable plants, fodder, seeds or other agricultural plants or products, thing or pest injurious to any agricultural plant or product, or to prevent the introduction, propagation, growth or increase in number of any of the above described animals, or rodents, the board of county commissioners of any county may create a pest district or pest districts within such county and may enlarge any district containing a lesser territory than the whole county, or reduce any district already created, or combine or consolidate districts or divide, or create new districts from time to time in the manner hereinafter set forth.

Formation and alteration of pest districts.

SEC. 2. Whenever ten or more resident freeholders in any county petition the board of county commissioners, asking that their lands be included, either separately or with other lands designated in the petition in a district to be formed for the purpose of preventing, destroying, or exterminating any of the animals, rodents or other such things described in section 1 of this act, or that such lands be included within a district already formed by the enlargement of such district, or a new district or districts be formed out of a district or districts then in existence or out of territory partly in districts already formed and not included in any district, and such petition indicating the boundaries of such proposed district, whether all or any part of such county, and stating the purpose of such district, the board shall fix a time for the hearing of such petition and shall give at least thirty days notice of the time and place of such hearing by posting copies of such notice of the time and place of such hearing in three conspicuous places within the proposed district and posting one copy of such notice at the court house or place of business of the board, and also by mailing to each freeholder within the proposed district a copy of such notice, to his last

Hearing of petition.

known residence, if known, and if not known to the clerk of such board, then and in that event the posting shall be deemed sufficient: *Provided, however,* If the board shall deem it impractical to mail notices to each freeholder, within the proposed district, or if the post office address of all the freeholders are not known, then in that event when recited in a resolution adopted by the board, the notice in addition to posting, shall be published once a week for three successive weeks in the county official paper if there is such, and if there be no official paper, then in some paper published in said county, and if there be no paper published in said county, then in some paper of general circulation within the proposed district. The persons in whose name the property is assessed shall be deemed the owners thereof for the purpose of notice as herein required: *Provided, however,* That for lands belonging to the state, the commissioner of public lands shall be notified, and for lands belonging to the county, the county auditor shall be notified, and if such lands are under lease or conditional sale the lessee or purchaser shall also be notified in the manner above provided. Any person interested may appear at the time of such hearing and may under such rules and regulations as the board may prescribe give his or her reasons for or objections to the creation of such a district.

Notice to
freeholders.

Public
lands.

SEC. 3. Upon the hearing of such petition the board shall determine whether such a district shall be created and shall fix the boundaries thereof, but shall not enlarge the boundaries of proposed districts or enlarge or change the boundary or boundaries of any district or districts already formed without first giving the notice to all parties interested as provided in section 2 of this act.

Determina-
tion by
county
board.

SEC. 4. If the board shall deem the interests of the county or of any particular section thereof

Record and
designation
of district.

will be benefited by the creation of such a district or districts, or the changing thereof, it shall make a record thereof upon the minutes of the board and shall designate such territory in each such district as "Pest District.....for.....County".

Duties of county officers.

SEC. 5. The county treasurer shall be ex-officio treasurer for each of such districts so formed and the county assessor and other county officers shall take notice of the formation of such district or districts and shall be governed thereby according to the provisions of this act. The assessment or the tax levies as hereinafter provided for shall be extended on the tax rolls against the property liable therefor the same as other assessments or taxes are extended, and shall become a part of the general tax against such property and be collected and accounted for the same as other taxes are, with the terms and penalties attached thereto. The moneys so collected shall be held and disbursed as a special fund for such district and shall be paid out only on warrant issued by the county auditor upon voucher approved by the board of county commissioners.

Assessment for taxation.

Supervisors, who act as.

SEC. 6. The agricultural expert in counties having an agricultural expert, shall under the direction of the State College of Washington have general supervision of the methods and means of preventing, destroying or exterminating any animals or rodents as herein mentioned within his county, and of how the funds of any pest district shall be expended to best accomplish the purposes for which such funds were raised; in counties having no such agricultural expert each county commissioner shall be within his respective commissioner district, ex-officio supervisor, or the board may designate some such person to so act, and shall fix his compensation therefor. Whenever any member of the board shall act as supervisor he shall be entitled to his actual expenses and his per diem

as county commissioner the same as if he were doing other county business.

SEC. 7. For the purposes herein specified the board of county commissioners shall annually levy on all the taxable property within any district a tax for such district not to exceed five mills on the dollar to be levied and collected as in this act prescribed.

Tax levy.

If, however, they shall deem that the prevention, destruction or extermination of any such animals, or other pests shall be of special benefit to the lands within any such district they may in lieu of a tax, levy an assessment against the lands therein at not to exceed ten cents per acre. For this purpose they may classify the lands into tillable, grazing, and waste lands and fix the assessment for each class in such amount as shall seem just, but which shall be uniform per acre in its respective class. The finding by the board of such special benefits, when so declared by resolution and spread upon the minutes of the board shall be conclusive that the same is of special benefit to the lands within the district.

Local assessment for special benefits.

SEC. 8. Whenever there shall be included within any pest district lands belonging to the state or to the county the board of county commissioners shall determine the amount of the tax or assessment for which such land would be liable if the same were in private ownership for each subdivision of forty acres or fraction thereof. The assessor shall transmit to the county commissioners a statement of the amounts so due from county lands and the county commissioners shall appropriate from the current expense fund of the county sufficient money to pay such amounts. A statement of the amounts due from state lands within each county shall be annually forwarded to the commissioner

Assessments for state and county lands.

of public lands who shall examine the same and if he finds the same correct and that the determination was made according to law, he shall certify the same to the state auditor who shall issue a warrant for the payment of same against any funds in the state treasury appropriated for such purposes.

Claims
against
leased and
contracted
state lands.

The commissioner of public lands shall keep a record of the amounts so paid on account of any state lands which are under lease or contract of sale and such amounts shall be added to and become a part of the annual rental or purchase price of the land, and shall be paid annually at the time of payment of rent or payment of interest or purchase price of such land. When such amounts shall be collected by the commissioner of public lands it shall be paid into the general fund in the state treasury.

Obligations
in excess of
revenues
prohibited.

SEC. 9. No district shall be permitted to contract obligations in excess of the estimated revenues for the two years next succeeding the incoming of such indebtedness and it shall be unlawful for the county commissioners to approve of any bills which will exceed the revenue to any district which shall be estimated to be received by such district during the next two years.

Appropriation,
\$10,000.00.

SEC. 10. For the purpose of meeting and paying any assessment that may be levied against state lands as herein provided during the fiscal biennium ending April 1, 1921, there is hereby appropriated the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00).

Passed the Senate February 11, 1919.

Passed the House March 11, 1919.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1919.