

## CHAPTER 254.

[S. S. B. 23. 1]

## FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to fire protection districts, amending sections 1, 2, 5, 12, 16a, 20, 25, 31, 34, 38, and 39, chapter 34, Laws of 1939, as amended, and section 3, chapter 70, Laws of 1941, as amended (secs. 5654-101, -102, -105, -112, -116a, -120, -125, -131, -134, -138, and -139, Rem. Rev. Stat.; secs. 540-1, -3, -9, -23, -33, -41, -51, -63, -69, -77, and -79, PPC); providing for a determination of the amounts of district obligations which annexed lands shall bear; for the exclusion of land not benefited; for the joint ownership and operation of district facilities; for a reserve fund; and providing limits on incurring obligations; authorizing mergers of districts and prescribing the procedure therefor and the effect thereof; authorizing districts to issue burning permits, prescribing the conditions thereof, and providing penalties; and repealing all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 as last amended by section 1, chapter 162, Laws of 1945 (sec. 5654-101, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-1, PPC) is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Fire-Protection Districts for the elimination of fire hazards and for the protection of life and property in territories outside of incorporated cities and towns and in territories including one or more cities of the fourth class are hereby authorized to be established as in this act provided.

Authorized  
to be  
established.

SEC. 2. Section 2, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (sec. 5654-102, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-3, PPC) is amended to read as follows:

Section 2. For the purpose of the formation of a Fire-Protection District, a petition designating the boundaries of the proposed district, by metes and bounds, or by describing the lands to be included in the proposed district by United States townships, ranges and legal subdivisions, signed by not less than fifteen per cent (15%) of the qualified registered

Petition to  
form district.

electors who are resident within the boundaries of such district, and setting forth the object for the creation of such district and alleging that the establishment of such district shall be conducive to the public safety, welfare, and convenience, and will be a benefit to the property included therein, shall be filed with the County Auditor of the county within which such proposed district is located, accompanied by an obligation signed by two or more petitioners, agreeing to pay the cost of the publication of the notice hereinafter provided for. Such district shall not cause to be taxed for district purposes those lands within the district which are now or will hereafter be required to pay forest protection assessment. The organization of any Fire-Protection District heretofore otherwise legally formed and which includes lands within its boundaries required by law to pay forest protection assessment is hereby approved and confirmed as a legally organized Fire-Protection District in the State of Washington. The County Auditor shall, within thirty (30) days, from the date of filing such petition, examine the signatures and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof; and for such purpose shall have access to all registration books or records in the possession of the registration officers of the election precincts included, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of the proposed district. Such books and records shall be *prima facie* evidence of the truth of said certificate. No person having signed such a petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the same with the County Auditor. If such petition shall be found to contain a sufficient number of signatures of qualified registered electors who are resident within the boundaries of such district, the County Auditor shall transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the Board of County Commissioners which shall thereupon by resolution entered upon its minutes, receive the same and fix a

Contents.

Filing.

Costs.

Forest protection lands.

Examination by County Auditor.

Signature may not be withdrawn.

Transmittal and certification of petition by Auditor.

day and hour thereof when it will publicly hear said petition.

SEC. 3. Section 5, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (sec. 5654-105, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-9, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. At the time and place fixed for the hearing on said petition or at any adjournment thereof as herein provided, the Board of County Commissioners shall hear said petition and shall receive such evidence as it shall deem material in favor of or opposed to the formation of such district or to the inclusion therein or exclusion therefrom of any lands, but no lands not within the boundaries of the proposed district as described in said petition, shall be included within the district without a written grant describing the land, executed by all persons having any interest of record therein, and filed in the proceedings on such petition. No land within the boundaries described in the petition, except that land which the Commissioners find will receive no benefits from the proposed district, shall be excluded from the district.

Hearing  
on petition.

Lands to  
be included.

SEC. 4. Section 12, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (sec. 5654-112, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-23, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. If the certificate of the canvassing officials shows that the proposition to organize the proposed Fire-Protection District failed to receive three-fifths of all the votes cast at said election, the Board of County Commissioners shall enter a minute to that effect and all proceedings had to create the proposed district shall become nullified and void.

Three-fifths  
of all votes  
cast at  
election.

SEC. 5. Section 3, chapter 70, Laws of 1941, as amended by section 2, chapter 162, Laws of 1945 (sec. 5654-16a, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-33, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. Any territory contiguous to a Fire-Protection District and not within the boundaries

Contiguous  
territory.

of an incorporated city of the first, second or third class or other Fire-Protection District may be annexed to such Fire-Protection District, for the purpose of obtaining fire fighting protection or prevention facilities, by petition of fifteen per cent of the qualified registered electors residing within the territory proposed to be annexed: *Provided*, That if territory included in a city of the fourth class is annexed the entire territory within such fourth class city must be annexed as a unit. Such petition shall be filed with the Fire Commissioners of the Fire-Protection District and if the said Fire Commissioners shall concur in the said petition they shall then file such petition with the County Auditor who shall within thirty (30) days from the date of filing such petition examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof. After the County Auditor shall have certified to the sufficiency of the petition, the proceedings thereafter by the Board of County Commissioners and the rights and powers and duties of the Board of County Commissioners, petitioners and objectors and the election and canvass thereof shall be the same as in the original proceedings to form a Fire Protection District: *Provided*, That the Board of County Commissioners shall have authority and it shall be its duty to determine on an equitable basis, the amount of obligation which the territory to be annexed to the district shall assume, if any, to place the taxpayers of the existing district on a fair and equitable relationship with the taxpayers of the territory to be annexed by reason of the benefits of coming into a going district previously supported by the taxpayers of the existing district, and such obligation may be paid to the district in yearly installments to be fixed by the County Board if within the 4-mill annual tax limit and included in the annual tax levies against the property in such annexed territory until fully paid. The amount of the obliga-

Annexation.

Petition.

Fourth class cities as entire unit.

Approval by fire commissioners.

Filing of petition.

Examination and certification.

Election and canvassing.

Board to determine the obligation of the annexed territory.

tion and the plan of payment thereof fixed by the County Board shall be set out in general terms in the notice of election for annexation: *Provided, however,* That the special election shall be held only within the boundaries of the territory proposed to be annexed to said Fire-Protection District. Upon the entry of the order of the Board of County Commissioners incorporating such contiguous territory with such existing Fire-Protection Districts, said territory shall become subject to the indebtedness, bonded or otherwise, of said existing district in like manner as the territory of said district. Should such petition be signed by all of the qualified registered electors residing within the territory proposed to be annexed, and should the Fire Commissioners concur therein, an election in such territory and a hearing on such petition shall be dispensed with and the Board of County Commissioners shall enter its order incorporating such territory within the said existing Fire-Protection District.

Amount and plan of payment to be set out in notice of election.

Petition signed by all electors in territory.

SEC. 6. Section 20, chapter 34, Laws of 1939, as amended by section 4, chapter 70, Laws of 1941 (sec. 5654-120, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-41, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 20. Any Fire-Protection District organized under this act shall have authority:

Powers of districts.

(1) To lease, own, maintain, operate and provide fire engines and all other necessary or proper apparatus, facilities, machinery and equipment for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, and protection of life and property;

Personal property.

(2) To lease, own, maintain and operate real property, improvements and fixtures thereon suitable and convenient for housing, repairing and caring for fire fighting equipment;

Real property.

(3) To enter into contract with any incorporated city or town whereby such city or town shall furnish fire-prevention and fire extinguishment service to the districts and the inhabitants thereof under the

Contracts.

provisions of this act upon such terms as the board of directors of the district shall determine. To contract with another County Fire-Protection District, or with any town, city or municipal corporation or governmental agency or private person or persons to consolidate or cooperate for mutual fire fighting protection and prevention purposes; or, for mutual fire fighting, protection and prevention purposes only, may annex or become annexed to any incorporated city or town of the third or fourth class or governmental agency already provided with fire fighting and protection equipment and fire-protection service upon terms which may be mutually agreed upon. Any city, town, municipal corporation or governmental agency may contract with a County Fire-Protection District established and maintained under the provisions of this act for the purpose of affording such district fire fighting and protection equipment and service or fire prevention facilities, and in so contracting the district, city, town, municipal corporation or other governmental agency shall be deemed for all purposes to act within its governmental capacity. Any County Fire-Protection District established and maintained under the provisions of this act, or any city, town, municipal corporation or other governmental agency is hereby authorized to contract with any person, firm or corporation for the purpose of affording fire fighting, protection or fire prevention facilities to such person, firm or corporation and such contractual relation shall be deemed for all purposes to be within the governmental power of such rural Fire-Protection District, city, town, municipal corporation or other governmental agency; .

Joint  
operations.

(4) Fire-Protection Districts situated in different counties may contract to operate jointly in carrying out the objects of their creation. Contracts for joint operation may provide for joint ownership of property and equipment, and may authorize a joint

board of fire commissioners of the contracting districts to manage the affairs of the joint operations; to employ and discharge the necessary agents and employees and fix their respective wages and salaries; to provide and designate a suitable place in any county in which any of the contracting districts is situated, as a regular meeting place for the joint board; to incur the necessary expenses and direct the payment therefor from the funds of the contracting districts in such proportion as the joint boards shall determine; and to do all things as may in the judgment of the joint board be required to carry out the joint operations of the contracting districts.

The joint board shall consist of the members of the boards of the contracting districts and a majority of the membership of each district board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the joint board. The Members of the Boards of Fire Commissioners of the contracting districts shall organize as a joint board annually in January after the second Monday thereof, elect a chairman and appoint a secretary for the ensuing year. Any member of the board of any contracting district may act as secretary of the joint board or the joint board may appoint such other person as the joint board may determine. The joint board shall prepare the annual budget for the joint operation of the contracting districts and shall determine the share of revenues for the joint operation to be raised by each district and the share of the expense of joint operation to be paid by each district in the ensuing year, and the secretary of the joint board shall certify and deliver within the time required by law, to the County Auditor of each county involved, the part of the budget to be raised by the district in that county and the tax officials of that county shall levy and collect the tax, and the County Treasurer shall pay vouchers drawn by the joint board on the funds of the district in

Joint board.

Annual budget.

Tax levy.

that county upon warrants issued by the County Auditor of that county.

Term of contracts for joint operation.

Contracts for joint operation of fire districts, as herein authorized shall run from year to year and as of January 1st may be terminated by written notice of the Board of Fire Commissioners of any contracting district to the other contracting district or districts on or before July 1st and the contract for joint operations shall terminate on January 1st following: *Provided*, That all obligations of the joint operations must be paid or definitely arranged for before contract termination and no notice of termination shall relieve any contracting district of its unpaid obligation incurred under the contract for joint operation;

Uniformity and coordination.

(5) To encourage uniformity and coordination of Fire-Protection District operation programs, the fire commissioners of two or more Fire-Protection Districts, may form an association thereof, for the purpose of securing data and information of value in fighting and in preventing fires; hold and attend meetings thereof; and promote more economical and efficient operation of the associated Fire-Protection Districts. The Directors of Fire-Protection Districts so associated shall adopt articles of association, select a chairman and secretary, and such other officers as they may determine, and may employ and discharge such agents and employees as the officers deem convenient to carry out the purposes of the association. The expenses of the association may be paid from Fire-Protection District Expense Funds upon vouchers of the respective associated districts: *Provided*, That the aggregate contributions made to the association by any district in any calendar year shall not exceed 1/10 of one mill of the tax valuation of the district;

Articles of association.

Employment of help.

Expenses.

Joint contract with another body.

(6) Two or more Fire-Protection Districts may contract with each other and such a district may contract with a city or county or the State Super-



visor of Forestry or any association approved by him for the joint leasing, ownership, maintenance and operation of all necessary and proper apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment for the elimination of fire hazards and for the protection of life and property within the contracting districts, and of real property, improvements and fixtures thereon suitable and convenient for the housing, repairing, and caring for such apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment, and may contribute their agreed proportion of the cost and expense thereof;

Such contracts shall be executed by the Commissioners of the contracting districts and, when the contract is between such districts, the terms and conditions thereof shall be carried out by the Boards of Commissioners acting jointly;

(7) To do all things and perform all acts not otherwise prohibited by law. Other acts.

SEC. 7. Section 25, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (sec. 5654-125, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-51, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 25. Not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the day of election any resident elector of the district, desiring to become a candidate for office of Fire Commissioner, shall file with the County Auditor of his county a statement of his candidacy, for which no fee shall be charged. Such resident electors so filing shall be entitled to have their names appear as candidates on the ballot for said election. Candidates  
for Fire  
Commissioner.  
  
Filing.

SEC. 8. Section 31, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (sec. 5654-131, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-63, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 31. The Office of the Fire Commissioners and principal place of business of the district shall be at some place within the county in which the district is situated, to be designated by the Board of Fire Commissioners. The Board shall hold regular Office of  
Commissioners.

## Meetings.

monthly meetings at their office on such day as they, by resolution previously adopted, shall determine, and may adjourn such meetings as may be required for the proper transaction of business. Special meetings of the Board may be called at any time by a majority of the Commissioners or by the secretary and the chairman of the Board. Any Fire Commissioner not joining in the call of a special meeting shall be entitled to a three (3) days' written notice by mail of the same, specifying generally the business proposed to be transacted at said special meeting, but when at any special meeting of the Board all members are present, lack of previous notice thereof shall not invalidate the proceedings.

## Notice of special meetings.

SEC. 9. Section 34, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 (sec. 5654-134, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-69, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

## Funds created.

Section 34. There are hereby created in said County Treasurer's office of each county in which a fire protection district shall be organized for the use of the district the following funds: (1) Expense Fund; (2) Coupon Warrant Fund; (3) Contract Fund; (4) Reserve Fund; and (5) Local Improvement District No..... Fund. All taxes levied for administrative, operative and maintenance purposes, when collected, shall be placed by the County Treasurer in the expense fund of the district; all taxes levied for the payment of coupon warrants and interest thereon, when collected, shall be placed by the County Treasurer in the coupon warrant fund of the district; all taxes levied for the purchase of fire-fighting equipment, apparatus, and for the housing thereof, proceeds from the sale of coupon warrants, and the transfer of any surplus in the expense fund, shall be placed by the County Treasurer in the contract fund of the district; the Board of Fire Commissioners may include in its annual budget items of possible outlay to be provided for and held in reserve for any district purpose and until the same

## Deposits in funds.

or any part thereof is transferred by the County Treasurer upon order of the Board of Fire Commissioners to any other appropriate fund of the district and taxes shall be levied therefor and all such taxes when collected by the County Treasurer shall be placed in the reserve fund of the district; all special taxes levied against the lands in any improvement district within the Fire-Protection District, when collected, shall be placed by the County Treasurer in the local improvement district fund for such local improvement district.

SEC. 10. Section 38, chapter 34, Laws of 1939, as amended by section 7, chapter 70, Laws of 1941 (sec. 5654-138, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-77, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 38. The Board of Fire Commissioners of the district shall have authority to contract indebtedness for any general district purpose and evidence the same by the issuance and sale at par plus accrued interest not exceeding six per cent (6%) per annum of coupon warrants of the district in such denominations, in such form and payable at such time or times not longer than six (6) years from the issuing date of said coupon warrants; said date to be specified thereon, as the Board shall determine and provide. Such coupon warrants shall be payable to bearer, shall have interest coupons attached providing for the payment of interest semi-annually on the first day of January and of July following in each year: *Provided*, That at the option of District Board the aggregate amount of coupon warrants may include a sum sufficient to pay the annual interest thereon for a period not exceeding one year from the issuing date of the coupon warrants and in that event such interest shall be taken from the proceeds of the sale of the coupon warrants and immediately placed in coupon warrant fund of the district, for the payment of the interest coupons maturing during the first

Indebtedness.

Coupon warrants.

Interest.

Term.

Aggregate amount of warrants may include interest for one year.

Recording of warrants.

year of the coupon warrants and the issuance of the coupon warrants prior to delivery thereof to the purchaser, shall be recorded in the office of the County Treasurer in a book kept for that purpose. Said coupon warrants when issued shall constitute general obligations of the district. All outstanding district warrants of every kind shall outlaw and become void after six (6) years from the maturity date thereof where money shall be available in the proper fund of the district within that time for their payment.

Warrants void after six years.

SEC. 11. Section 39, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 as amended by section 1, chapter 106, Laws of 1943 (sec. 5654-139, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 540-79, PPC) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Yearly expenses limited to yearly levy.

Section 39. Except as authorized in this act by the issuance and sale of district coupon warrants and also except as otherwise authorized by law, the Board of Fire Commissioners shall have no authority to incur expenses or other financial obligations payable in any year in excess of the aggregate amount of the taxes levied for and payable in that year, and in preparing the annual budget for the ensuing year, the Board of Fire Commissioners shall first deduct from estimated revenues the amount of coupon warrants and interest, if any, payable during the ensuing year and shall bring their operating expenses and other financial requirements of the district within the residue of the estimated revenues and other available funds after deducting the amount required to pay the coupon warrants and interest thereon payable in that year: *Provided*, That unpaid warrants for expenses and obligations incurred within the aggregate limitation herein prescribed, outstanding at the end of any calendar year may be paid from taxes collected in subsequent years, and the aggregate annual tax levy for all district purposes exclusive of levies for local improvement districts shall not exceed four (4) mills.

Warrants excepted.

Proviso.

SEC. 12. A Fire Protection District organized under chapter 34, Laws of 1939 as amended (secs. 5654-101 to 5654-151, incl., Rem. Rev. Stat.; secs. 540-1 to 540-101, incl., PPC) may merge with another such district lying adjacent thereto, upon such terms and conditions as they agree upon, in the manner hereinafter provided. The district desiring to merge with another district shall hereinafter be called the "merging district," and the district into which the merger is to be made shall be called the "merger district."

Merger.

SEC. 13. To effect such a merger, a petition therefor shall be filed with the board of the merger district by the Commissioners of the merging district. The Commissioners of the merging district may sign and file the petition upon their own initiative, and they shall file such a petition when it is signed by fifteen per cent (15%) of the qualified electors resident in the merging district and presented to them. The petition shall state the reasons for the merger; give a detailed statement of the district's finances, listing its assets and liabilities; state the terms and conditions under which the merger is proposed; and pray for the merger.

Petition.

Filing.

Contents.

SEC. 14. The board of the merger district may, by resolution, reject the petition, or it may concur therein as presented, or it may modify the terms and conditions of the proposed merger, and shall transmit the petition, together with a copy of its resolution thereon to the merger district. If the petition is concurred in as presented or as modified, the board of the merging district shall forthwith present the petition to the Auditor of the county in which the merging district is situated, who shall within thirty days examine the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof, and for that purpose he shall have access to all registration books and records in the possession of the regis-

Rejection or concurrence by board.

Certification and examination by auditor.

tration officers of the election precincts included, in whole or in part, within the merging district. Such books and records shall be *prima facie* evidence of truth of the certificate. No signatures may be withdrawn from the petition after the filing.

Signatures may not be withdrawn.

Resolution to call election.

SEC. 15. If the Auditor finds that the petition contains the signatures of a sufficient number of qualified electors, he shall return it, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the board of the merging district. Thereupon such board shall adopt a resolution, calling a special election in the merging district, at which shall be submitted to the electors thereof, the question of the merger.

Three fifths of votes cast required.

SEC. 16. The board of the merging district shall notify the board of the merger district of the results of the election. If three-fifths of the votes cast at the election favor the merger, the respective district boards shall adopt concurrent resolutions, declaring the districts merged, under the name of the merger district. Thereupon the districts are merged into one district, under the name of the merger district; the merging district is dissolved without further proceedings; and the boundaries of the merger district are thereby extended to include all the area of the merging district. Thereafter the legal existence cannot be questioned by any person by reason of any defect in the proceedings had for the merger.

Boundaries of merged district.

Three fifths of electors signing petition.

SEC. 17. If three-fifths of all the qualified electors in the merging district sign the petition to merge, no election on the question of the merger is necessary. In which case the Auditor shall return the petition, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the board of the merging district. Thereupon the boards of the respective districts shall adopt their concurrent resolutions of merger in the same manner and to the same effect as if the merger had been authorized by an election.

SEC. 18. None of the obligations of the merged districts or of a local improvement district therein shall be affected by the merger and dissolution, and all land liable to be assessed to pay any of such indebtedness shall remain liable to the same extent as if the merger had not been made, and any assessments theretofore levied against the land shall remain unimpaired and shall be collected in the same manner as if no merger had been made. The Commissioners of the merged district shall have all the powers possessed at the time of the merger by the Commissioners of the two districts, to levy, assess and cause to be collected all assessments against any land in both districts which may be necessary to provide for the payment of the indebtedness thereof, and until the assessments are collected and all indebtedness of the districts paid, separate funds shall be maintained for each district as were maintained before the merger: *Provided*, That the board of the merged district may, with the consent of the creditors of the districts merged, cancel any or all assessments theretofore levied, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the merger, to the end that the lands in the respective districts shall bear their fair and proportionate share of such indebtedness.

Obligations unaffected by merger or dissolution.

Power to levy and assess.

Cancellation of prior assessments.

SEC. 19. The Commissioners of the merging district shall, forthwith upon completion of the merger, transfer, convey, and deliver to the merged district all property and funds of the merging district, together with all interest in and right to collect any assessments theretofore levied.

Delivery of property and funds to merged district.

SEC. 20. No person, firm or corporation shall start or continue, or cause to be started or continued, an open fire on any cleared or cultivated land within a Fire Protection District, without a written permit therefor, issued by authority of the district, in any such district in which the Commissioners thereof have adopted and published a resolution assuming

Permit to start fires.

the privilege of issuing such permits. No Fire District shall issue a burning permit for a fire on any forest or cut over land.

Commissioners to publish resolution to issue fire permits.

SEC. 21. If the Commissioners of such a district desire to assume the privilege of issuing such fire permits, they shall adopt a resolution to that effect, and publish it once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in the county and of general circulation in the district and post it in three public places in the district. The affidavit of publication by the publisher and of the Clerk of the district of the posting shall be filed in the records of the Commissioners and shall be *prima facie* evidence of such publication and posting. Ten days after such posting and the last publication, the resolution shall take effect.

Contents of permit.

SEC. 22. Such permits shall be issued upon request, without charge, by the persons authorized by the Commissioners so to do, when the issuing officer deems it safe to do so. The permit shall designate the premises and the exact location thereon where the fire may be started and continued; the nature of the material to be burned; the time limit of the permit; and may contain any special requirements pertaining to the fire and the control thereof as the issuing officer deems necessary for safety.

Permittee to comply with terms of permit.

SEC. 23. The permittee shall comply with all the terms and conditions of the permit, and shall keep a responsible person in charge of the fire at all times, who shall hold the fire under control and not permit it to spread to other property or structures, and shall thoroughly extinguish the fire when the authorized burning is completed. The possession of such a permit shall not relieve the permittee from liability for any damages resulting from the fire for which he may otherwise be liable.



SEC. 24. The violation of or failure to comply with any provision of this act pertaining to fire permits, or of any term or condition of the permit, is a misdemeanor.

Failure to comply.

SEC. 25. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act, or any part thereof, are hereby repealed.

Repeal of inconsistent acts.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1947.

Passed the House March 8, 1947.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1947.

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## CHAPTER 255.

[ S. B. 154. ]

### FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to Fire Protection Districts and authorizing the Board of Fire Commissioners thereof to institute actions in the Superior Court of the state in the name of the district, to have the Court examine the proceedings had to organize the district, or any proceedings had by the Board of Fire Commissioners to organize any local improvement district therein, proceedings had to authorize, issue, and sell coupon warrants either of the fire district or for a local improvement district therein, or both; proceedings had for any contract of the district involving the Fire District or any Local Improvement District therein and any other proceedings which may affect the legality of the proceedings concerned.

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

SECTION 1. The Board of Fire Commissioners of any Fire Protection District now existing or which may hereafter be organized under the laws of the State of Washington may commence a special proceeding in the Superior Court of the State of Washington in and by which the proceedings for the organization of the fire district or for the formation of any local improvement district therein, or proceedings for the authorization, issuance and sale of coupon warrants, either of the fire district or for a local improvement district therein, or both, whether

Board may cause all proceedings to be reviewed by Superior Court.