

CHAPTER 75.

[ H. B. 53. ]

INTER-COUNTY RURAL LIBRARY DISTRICTS.

AN ACT providing for the establishment of inter-county rural library districts and changing the methods of forming and dissolving rural county library districts, and amending section 2, chapter 119, Laws of 1935, as amended by section 1, chapter 65, Laws of 1941, and section 4a, chapter 65, Laws of 1941, as amended by section 1, chapter 251, Laws of 1943, and section 8, chapter 119, Laws of 1935, as amended by section 7, chapter 65, Laws of 1941, and section 20, chapter 119, Laws of 1935 (secs. 8226-2, 8226-4a, 8226-8 and 8226-20, Rem. Rev. Stat.; secs. 727-3, 727-9, 727-15 and 727-39, PPC).

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

May be established.

SECTION 1. Inter-county rural library districts may be established to provide throughout several counties free public library service similar to that provided within a single county by a rural county library district.

Alternative methods.

SEC. 2. An inter-county rural library district shall be established by joint action of two or more counties proceeding by either of the following alternative methods:

Separate action of County Commissioners.

(a) The Boards of County Commissioners of any two or more counties shall adopt identical resolutions proposing the formation of such a district to include all of the areas outside of incorporated cities or towns in such counties as may be designated in such resolutions. In lieu of such resolutions a petition of like purport signed by ten (10) per cent of the registered voters residing outside of incorporated cities or towns of a county, may be filed with the County Auditor thereof, and shall have the same effect as a resolution. Action to initiate the formation of such a district shall become ineffective in any county if corresponding action is not completed within one year thereafter by each other county included in such proposal. When such

Petition.

action has been taken in each of the counties involved, at the next general or special election held in the respective counties there shall be submitted to the voters in the areas outside of incorporated cities and towns a question as to whether an inter-county rural library district shall be established as outlined in the resolutions or petitions. If a majority of the electors voting on the proposition in each of the counties affected shall vote in favor of such district it shall thereby become established.

Election.

(b) The County Commissioners of two or more counties meeting in joint session attended by a majority of the County Commissioners of each county may, by majority vote of those present, order the establishment of an inter-county rural library district to include all of the area outside of incorporated cities and towns in as many of the counties represented at such joint meeting as shall be determined by resolution of such joint meeting. No county, however, shall be included in such district if a majority of its County Commissioners vote against its inclusion in such district.

Joint action  
of County  
Commissioners.

SEC. 3. An existing rural county library district may be expanded into an inter-county rural library district or an established inter-county rural library district may be expanded to include additional counties by joint action of all counties included in the proposed expanded district taken in the same manner as prescribed for the initiation of an inter-county rural library district.

Expansion  
of county  
district  
in same  
manner.

SEC. 4. All property, assets and liabilities of pre-existing rural county library districts within the area included in an inter-county rural library district shall pass to and be assumed by an inter-county rural library district.

Assets and  
liabilities  
belong to  
new district.

SEC. 5. Immediately following the establishment of an inter-county rural library district the Boards of County Commissioners of the counties affected

Appointment  
of board of  
trustees.

Appointment  
of librarian.

shall jointly appoint a board of five trustees for the district in accordance with section 8 of chapter 119, Laws of 1935, as amended. The Board of Trustees shall appoint a librarian for the district.

May adopt  
name.

SEC. 6. The Board of Trustees of an inter-county rural library district may adopt a name by which the district shall be known and under which it shall transact all of its business.

Two mill  
tax levy.

SEC. 7. Funds for the establishment and maintenance of the library service of the district shall be provided by the Boards of County Commissioners of the respective counties by means of an annual tax levy on the property in the district of not more than two (2) mills per annum. The tax levy in the several counties shall be at a uniform rate and shall be based on a budget to be compiled by the Board of Trustees of the inter-county rural library district who shall determine the uniform tax rate necessary and certify their determination to the respective Boards of County Commissioners.

Uniform  
rate in each  
county.

Designated  
County  
Treasurer to  
be treasurer  
of district.

SEC. 8. The Board of Trustees of an inter-county rural library district shall designate the County Treasurer of one of the counties included in the district to act as treasurer for the district. All moneys raised for the district by taxation within the participating counties or received by the district from any other sources shall be paid over to him, and he shall disburse the funds of the district upon warrants drawn thereon by the auditor of the county to which he belongs pursuant to vouchers approved by the trustees of the district.

Same powers  
as rural  
county  
library  
districts.

SEC. 9. Except as otherwise specifically provided inter-county rural library districts and the trustees thereof shall have the same powers as are prescribed by section 4a, chapter 119, Laws of 1935, as amended by section 1, chapter 251, Laws of 1943, for rural county library districts and shall follow the same procedures and be subject to the same

limitations as are provided therein with respect to the contracting of indebtedness.

SEC. 10. Section 2, chapter 119, Laws of 1935, as last amended by section 1, chapter 65, Laws of 1941 (sec. 8226-2, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 727-3, PPC) is amended to read as follows:

Section 2. As used in this act, unless the context requires a different meaning (1) "governmental unit" means any county, city, town, rural county library district, inter-county rural library district, or school district, except a union high school district; (2) "legislative body" means the body authorized to determine the amount of taxes to be levied in a governmental unit; in rural county library districts and in inter-county rural library districts the legislative body shall be the Board of Library Trustees of the district; (3) "library" means a free public library supported in whole or in part with money derived from taxation; and (4) "regional library" means a free public library maintained by two or more counties or other governmental units; and (5) "rural county library district" means a library serving all the area of a county not included within the area of incorporated cities and towns; and (6) "inter-county rural library district" means a municipal corporation organized to provide library service for all areas outside of incorporated cities and towns within two or more counties.

Definitions.

"Governmental unit."

"Legislative body."

"Library."

"Regional library."

"Rural county library district."

"Inter-county rural library district."

SEC. 11. Section 4a, chapter 65, Laws of 1941, as amended by section 1, chapter 251, Laws of 1943 (sec. 8226-4a, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 727-9, PPC) is amended to read as follows:

Section 4a. Rural County Library Districts are hereby authorized for the purpose of giving free public library service to their residents. Such districts shall include all areas of the county outside incorporated cities and towns. A rural county library district may be established by a majority vote

Rural County Library Districts authorized.

of the people voting on the proposition in the district. The procedure for the establishment of such a Rural County Library District shall be as follows:

**Established by majority vote.**  
**Petitions.** (1) petitions signed by at least ten (10) per cent of the registered voters of the county, outside of the area of incorporated cities and towns, asking that the question: "Shall a Rural County Library District be established?" shall be filed with the Board of County Commissioners. (2) The Board of County Commissioners, after having determined that the petition was signed by the requisite number of qualified petitioners, shall place the proposition for the establishment of a Rural County Library District on the ballot for the vote of the people of the county, outside incorporated cities and towns, at the next succeeding general or special election.

**Election.** (3) If a majority of the electors voting on the proposition vote in favor of the establishment of a Rural County Library District, the Board of County Commissioners shall forthwith declare it established.

**Establishment.** After the Board of County Commissioners has declared a Rural County Library District established, it shall appoint a Board of Library Trustees as is provided in section 8 hereof and provide funds for the establishment and maintenance of library service for the district by making a tax levy on the property in the district of not more than two (2) mills per annum sufficient for the library service as is required by the budget submitted to the Board of County Commissioners by the Board of Library Trustees. Such levies shall be a part of the general tax roll and shall be collected as a part of the general taxes against the property in the district. The Board of Library Trustees of the district shall have authority to contract indebtedness 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 form as the Board of Library Trustees shall determine, and

**Trustees.**

**Two mill tax levy.**

**May issue coupon warrants.**

the same may be issued in advance of the tax levy. Such warrants, signed by the chairman and the secretary of the Board of Library Trustees, shall be payable at such time or times as the Board of Library Trustees shall provide not longer than six (6) years from the date thereof. 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, and the issuance thereof shall be recorded in the office of the County Treasurer in a book kept for that purpose. 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. At no time shall the total indebtedness of the district exceed an amount that could be raised by a two (2) mill levy on the then existing valuation of the property of the district. It shall be the duty of the County Treasurer of the county in which any Rural County Library District is created under this act to receive and disburse all district revenues and to collect all taxes levied under this act.

Payable  
in not  
more than  
six years.

Debt  
limitation.

Duties of  
County  
Treasurer.

A Rural County Library District shall be a public corporation with such powers as are necessary to carry out its functions and for taxation purposes shall have the power vested in municipal corporations for such purposes.

Districts are  
municipal  
corporations.

SEC. 12. Section 8, chapter 119, Laws of 1935 as amended by section 7, chapter 65, Laws of 1941 (sec. 8226-8, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 727-15, PPC) is amended to read as follows:

Section 8. The management and control of a library shall be vested in a board of five (5) trustees. In cities and towns the trustees shall be appointed by the mayor with the consent of the legislative body. In counties and rural county library

Trustees.

Appointment.

districts they shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. In a regional library district they shall be appointed by the joint action of the legislative bodies concerned. In inter-county rural library districts they shall be appointed by the joint action of the Boards of County Commissioners of each of the counties included in a district. In school districts they shall be elected by the voters in the manner in which school directors are elected. The first appointments or elections shall be for terms of one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), and five (5) years respectively, and thereafter a trustee shall be appointed or elected annually to serve for five (5) years. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms as soon as possible in the manner in which members of the Board are regularly chosen: *Provided*, That where the library is a school district public library, the remaining members of the Board of Trustees shall fill such vacancies by appointment, for terms to expire at the next regular election of library trustees. A library trustee shall not receive a salary or other compensation for services as trustee, but necessary expenses actually incurred shall be paid from the library funds. A library trustee in the case of a city or town may be removed only by vote of the legislative body. A library trustee of a school district public library may be removed only by a majority vote of the other trustees. A trustee of a county library or a rural county library district library may be removed by the County Commissioners after a public hearing upon a written complaint stating the ground for removal, which complaint, with a notice of the time and place of hearing, shall have been served upon the trustee at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing. A trustee of an inter-county rural library district may be removed by the joint action of the Board of County Commissioners of the counties involved in the same manner as pro-

Terms of office.

Vacancies.

No compensation.

Expenses.

Removal.

vided herein for the removal of a trustee of a county library.

SEC. 13. Section 20, chapter 119, Laws of 1935 (sec. 8226-20, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 727-39, PPC) is amended to read as follows:

Section 20. A library established or maintained under this act (except a regional or a rural county library district library or an inter-county rural library district library) may be abolished only in pursuance of a vote of the electors of the governmental unit in which the library is located, taken in the manner prescribed in section 4 for a vote upon the establishment of a library. If a library of a city, town, or school district be abolished, the books and other printed or written matter belonging to it shall go to the library of the county whereof the municipality is a part, if there be a county library, but if not, then to the state library. If a library of a county or region be abolished, the books and other printed matter belonging to it shall go to the state library. All other library property shall be disposed of as the legislative body of the governmental unit shall direct.

After a rural county library district or an inter-county rural library district has been in operation for three or more years, it may be dissolved pursuant to a majority vote of all of the qualified electors residing outside of incorporated cities and towns voting upon a proposition for its dissolution, at a general election, which proposition may be placed upon the ballot at any such election whenever a petition by ten per cent (10%) or more qualified voters residing outside of incorporated cities or towns within a rural county library district or an inter-county rural library district requesting such dissolution shall be filed with the Board of Trustees of such district not less than ninety days prior to the holding of any such election. If a rural county library district is dissolved, the books and other

Transfer  
of books,  
funds and  
property.

printed matter belonging to it shall go to the state library. All other library property shall be disposed of as the legislative body of the governmental unit shall direct. When an inter-county rural library district is dissolved, the books, funds and other property thereof shall be divided among the participating counties in the most equitable manner possible as determined by the State Librarian, who shall give consideration to such items as the original source of property, the amount of funds raised from each county by the district, and the ability of the counties to make further use of such property or equipment for library purposes. Printed material which the State Librarian finds will not be used by any of the participating counties for further library purposes shall be turned over to the state library.

Passed the House February 27, 1947.

Passed the Senate February 26, 1947.

Approved by the Governor March 5, 1947.

---

## CHAPTER 76.

[ H. B. 4. ]

### COMPENSATION OF DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS.

AN ACT relating to drainage districts, the compensation of commissioners, amending section 38, chapter 115, Laws of 1895, as last amended by section 1, chapter 62, Laws of 1907 (sec. 4338, Rem. Rev. Stat.; sec. 511-109, PPC).

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

SECTION 1. Section 38, chapter 115, Laws of 1895, as amended by section 1, chapter 62, Laws of 1907 (sec. 4338, Rem. Rev. Stat.), is amended to read as follows:

Section 38. In performing their duties under the provisions of this act the board and the members of the board of drainage commissioners shall re-