

Nonhigh school districts.

trict within a union high school district shall not exceed three-fifths of the maximum levy permissible for any school district without a vote of the electors thereof: *Provided further*, That the levy against any nonhigh school district for the high school district fund shall not exceed two-fifths of the maximum levy permissible for any school district without a vote of the electors thereof and the levy by or for any such nonhigh school district shall not exceed the balance of such maximum permissible levy; the levy for any road district shall not exceed ten mills; and the levy by or for any city or town shall not exceed fifteen mills.

Road districts.

Cities and towns.

Port or power districts.

Nothing herein shall prevent levies at the rates provided by existing law by or for any port or power district.

Passed the House February 28, 1953.

Passed the Senate March 9, 1953.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1953.

CHAPTER 176.

[S. B. 19.]

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS—CONTRACTS—FINANCES—MERGERS.

AN ACT relating to fire protection districts; providing for bids on all work done or purchases made in excess of one thousand dollars; creating special funds for fire districts in the county treasurer's office; authorizing the board of fire commissioners to contract indebtedness and issue of coupon warrants; authorizing bonds for capital purposes; providing for the transfer of the part of the area of one fire district to another fire district; amending sections 52.16.020 and 52.16.080, RCW; and adding new sections to chapters 52.12, 52.16, and 52.24, RCW.

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

New section.

SECTION 1. A new section is added to chapter 52.12, RCW, to read as follows:

Whenever the cost of any work to be done or the purchase of any materials, supplies, or equipment, will exceed the sum of one thousand dollars, the same shall be done by contract after a call for bids which shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, in accordance with the terms of RCW 39.24-.010. Notice of the call for bids shall be given by posting notice thereof in three public places in the district and by publication once each week for two consecutive weeks, said posting and first publication to be at least two weeks before the date fixed for opening of the bids, and such publication to be in a newspaper of general circulation within the district. The commissioners shall have the power by resolution to reject any and all bids and make further calls for bids in the same manner as the original call. If no bid is received on the first call, the commissioners may readvertise and make a second call, or may enter into a contract without any further call.

Contracts
for work or
purchases
over \$1,000.

Bids.

SEC. 2. Section 52.16.020, RCW, is amended to ^{Amendment.} read as follows:

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; (5) local improvement district No. fund; and (6) general obligation bond 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 heretofore authorized and general

District
funds.

obligation bonds shall be placed by the county treasurer in the contract fund of the district; all taxes levied for the payment of the principal and interest of general obligation bonds, when collected, shall be placed by the county treasurer in the general obligation bond 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 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.

New section.

SEC. 3. A new section is added to chapter 52.16, RCW, to read as follows:

Contracts of indebtedness for general purposes.

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 percent 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 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 semiannually 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 [the] coupon warrant fund of the district, for the payment of the interest coupons maturing during the first 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 years from the maturity date thereof where money shall be available in the proper fund of the district within that time for their payment.

SEC. 4. Section 52.16.080, RCW, is amended to read Amendment. as follows:

Fire protection districts are hereby authorized to incur general indebtedness for capital purposes which shall include replacements of equipment which may be damaged or lost and for the purpose of refunding outstanding coupon warrants issued for capital purposes only, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, equal to three percent of the assessed valuation of the taxable property within such district and to issue general obligation bonds evidencing such indebtedness on the terms and provisions hereinafter set forth, the principal and interest thereof to be payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the forty mill tax limitation.

Contracts of
indebtedness
for capital
purposes.

SEC. 5. A new section is added to chapter 52.24, New section. RCW, to read as follows:

A part of one district may be transferred and merged with an adjacent district whenever such area

Merger
procedure.

can be better served by the merged district. To effect such a merger a petition shall be filed with the board of the merger district by the commissioners of the merging district, setting forth the exact area or part of the merging district to be transferred. 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 percent of the qualified electors resident in the area to be merged. 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. Said petition shall then be acted upon as set forth in RCW 52.24.030 and RCW 52.24.040.

New section.

SEC. 6. A new section is added to chapter 52.24, RCW, to read as follows:

Mergers without election.

If three-fifths of all the qualified electors in the area to be merged sign a petition to merge the districts, 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 boards of the merging districts. Thereupon the boards of the respective districts shall adopt their concurrent resolutions of transfer in the same manner and to the same effect as if the same had been authorized by an election.

Passed the Senate January 27, 1953.

Passed the House March 4, 1953.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1953.