

## CHAPTER 135.

[ S. B. 267. ]

## PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS—FORMATION.

AN ACT relating to public hospital districts; amending section 3, chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and RCW 70.44.020; adding a new section to chapter 70.44 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. Section 3, chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and RCW 70.44.020 are each amended to read as follows: Amendment.

At any general election or at any special election which may be called for that purpose the board of county commissioners of a county may, or on petition of ten percent of the electors of the county based on the total vote cast in the last general county election, shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of the county the proposition of creating a public hospital district coextensive with the limits of the county. Formation of district coextensive with county.

The petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall within fifteen days examine the signatures thereon and certify to the sufficiency thereof, and for that purpose he shall have access to all registration books in the possession of election officers in the county. If the petition is found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing it, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days, when it shall be returned to the auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine it and attach his certificate thereto. No person signing the petition may withdraw his name therefrom after filing. When the petition is certified as sufficient, the auditor shall forthwith transmit it, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the commissioners, who shall immediately transmit the proposition to the supervisor of elections or other election officer of the county, and he shall submit

the proposition to the voters at the next general election or if such petition so requests, he shall call a special election on such proposition not less than thirty nor more than ninety days from the date of said certificate. The notice of the election shall state the boundaries of the proposed district and the object of the election, and shall in other respects conform to the requirements of law governing the time and manner of holding elections. In submitting the question to the voters, the proposition shall be expressed on the ballot substantially in the following terms:

For public hospital district No. ....

Against public hospital district No. ....

New section.

SEC. 2. There is added to chapter 70.44 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Validation of previously formed districts.

Each and all of the respective areas of land heretofore attempted to be organized into public hospital districts under the provisions of this chapter are validated and declared to be duly existing hospital districts having the respective boundaries set forth in their organization proceedings as shown by the files in the office of the board of county commissioners of the county in question, and by the files of such districts.

Emergency.

SEC. 3. This act is necessary for the promotion of the public welfare, the immediate support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the Senate February 28, 1955.

Passed the House March 6, 1955.

Approved by the Governor March 14, 1955.