

Violation,
gross mis-
demeanor.

SEC. 3. Any violation of this act shall be a gross misdemeanor.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1959.

Passed the House March 6, 1959.

Approved by the Governor March 17, 1959.

CHAPTER 142.

[S. B. 8.]

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to public utility districts; amending section 1, chapter 210, Laws of 1953 and RCW 36.29.160, section 16, chapter 390, Laws of 1955 and RCW 54.16.150, section 17, chapter 390, Laws of 1955 and RCW 54.16.160; and adding a new section to chapter 390, Laws of 1955 and to chapter 54.16 RCW.

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

New section.

SECTION 1. There is added to chapter 390, Laws of 1955 and to chapter 54.16 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Segregation
of assess-
ments au-
thorized—
Procedure.

Whenever any land against which there has been levied any special assessment by any public utility district shall have been sold in part or subdivided, the board of commissioners of such public utility district shall have the power to order a segregation of the assessment.

Any person owning any part of the land involved in a special assessment and desiring to have such special assessment against the tracts of land segregated to apply to smaller parts thereof shall apply in writing to the board of commissioners of the public utility district which levied the assessment. If the commissioners determine that a segregation should be made they shall do so as nearly as possible on the same basis as the original assessment was levied and the total of the segregated parts of the assessment shall equal the assessment before segregation.

The commission shall then send notice thereof by mail to the several owners interested in the tract, as shown on the general tax rolls. If no protest is filed within twenty days from date of mailing said notice, the commission shall then by resolution approve said segregation. If a protest is filed, the commission shall have a hearing thereon, after mailing to the several owners at least ten days notice of the time and place thereof. After the hearing, the commission may by resolution approve said segregation, with or without change. Within ten days after the approval, any person aggrieved by the segregation may perfect an appeal to the superior court of the county wherein the property is situated and therefrom to the supreme court, all as provided for appeals from assessments levied by cities of the first class. The resolution approving said segregation shall describe the original tract, the amount and date of the original assessment, and shall define the boundaries of the divided parts and the amount of the assessment chargeable to each part, and shall order the county treasurer to make segregation on the original assessment roll as directed in the resolution. A certified copy of the resolution shall be delivered to the county treasurer who shall proceed to make the segregation ordered. The board of commissioners may require as a condition to the order of segregation that the person seeking it pay the public utility district the reasonable engineering and clerical costs incident to making the segregation. Unless otherwise provided in said resolution, the county treasurer shall apportion amounts paid on the original assessment in the same proportion as the segregated assessments bear to the original assessment. Upon segregation being made by the county treasurer, as aforesaid, the lien of the special assessment shall apply to the segregated parcels only to the extent of the segregated part of such assessment.

RCW 36.29.160 amended.

SEC. 2. Section 1, chapter 210, Laws of 1953 and RCW 36.29.160 are each amended to read as follows:

Segregation to be made upon certification.

The county treasurer shall make segregation, collect, and receive from any owner or owners of any subdivision or portion of any lot, tract or parcel of land upon which assessments or charges have been made or may be made hereafter in public utility districts, sewer districts, water districts, or county road improvement districts, under the terms of Title 54, Title 56, Title 57, or chapter 36.88, such portion of the assessments or charges levied or to be levied against such lot, tract or parcel of land in payment of such assessment or charges as the board of commissioners of the public utility district, sewer district, the water district commissioners or the board of county commissioners, respectively, shall certify to be chargeable to such subdivision, which certificate shall state that such property as segregated is sufficient security for the assessment or charges. Upon making collection upon any such subdivision the county treasurer shall note such payment upon his records and give receipt therefor.

RCW 54.16.150 amended.

SEC. 3. Section 16, chapter 390, Laws of 1955 and RCW 54.16.150 are each amended to read as follows:

Procedure, petition by majority of landowners.

When a petition signed by a majority of the landowners in a proposed local improvement district is filed with the commission, asking that the improvement therein described be ordered, the commission shall forthwith fix a date for hearing thereon after which it shall, by resolution, order the improvement, and may alter the boundaries of the proposed district; prepare and adopt the improvement; prepare and adopt detail plans thereof; declare the estimated cost thereof, what proportion of the cost shall be borne by the local district, and what proportion, if any, shall be borne by the entire public utility district, and provide the general funds thereof to be

applied thereto, if any; acquire all lands and other properties therefor; pay all damages caused thereby; and commence in the name of the public utility district such eminent domain proceedings and supplemental assessment or reassessment proceedings to pay all eminent domain awards necessary to entitle the district to proceed with the work, and shall thereafter proceed with the work, and shall file with the county treasurer its roll levying special assessments in the amount to be paid by special assessment against the property in the local improvement district in proportion to the special benefits to be derived by the property in the local district from the improvement: *Provided, however,* No such improvement shall be ordered unless the same appears to the commission to be financially and economically feasible: *And provided further,* That the commission may require as a condition to ordering such improvement or to making its determination as to the financial and economic feasibility, that all or a portion of such engineering, legal or other costs incurred or to be incurred by the commission in determining financial and economic feasibility shall be borne or guaranteed by the petitioners of the proposed local improvement district under such rules as the commission may adopt. No person shall withdraw his name from the petition after the same has been filed with the commission.

SEC. 4. Section 17, chapter 390, Laws of 1955 and RCW 54.16.160 are each amended to read as follows:

Before approval of the roll, a notice shall be published once each week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, stating that the roll is on file and open to inspection in the office of the secretary, and fixing a time not less than fifteen nor more than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which protests must be filed with the secretary

RCW 54.16.160
amended.
Assessment
roll—Hear-
ing—Appeal
—Expenses.

Assessment
roll—Hearing
—Appeal—
Expenses.

against any assessments shown thereon, and fixing a time when a hearing shall be held by the commission on the protests. After the hearing the commission may alter any and all assessments shown on the roll and may, by resolution, approve it, but if an assessment is raised, a new notice, similar to the first, shall be given, and a hearing had thereon, after which final approval of the roll may be made. Any person aggrieved by the assessments shall perfect an appeal to the superior court of the county within ten days after the approval, in the manner provided for appeals from assessments levied by cities of the first class. In the event such an appeal shall be taken, the judgment of the court shall confirm the assessment insofar as it affects the property of the appellant unless the court shall find from the evidence that such assessment is founded upon a fundamentally wrong basis and/or the decision of the commission thereon was arbitrary or capricious; in which event the judgment of the court shall correct, change, modify, or annul the assessment insofar as it affects the property of the appellant. In the same manner as provided with reference to cities of the first class an appeal shall lie to the supreme court from the judgment of the superior court, as in other cases, if taken within fifteen days after the date of the entry of the judgment in the superior court. Engineering, office, and other expenses necessary or incident to the improvement shall be borne by the public utility district: *Provided*, That when a municipal corporation included in the public utility district already owns or operates a utility of a character like that for which the assessments are levied hereunder, all such engineering and other expenses shall be borne by the local assessment district.

Passed the Senate February 16, 1959.

Passed the House March 8, 1959.

Approved by the Governor March 17, 1959.