

code, compilation, and/or statute shall be effective unless before its adoption, a public hearing has been held thereon by the board of county commissioners of which at least ten days' notice has been given. The notice must set out a copy of the proposed regulations; or if a code is adopted by reference the notice shall set forth the full official title and a statement describing the general purpose of such code. The notice shall also include the day, hour, and place of hearing and must be given by publication in the newspaper in which legal notices of the county are printed;

(8) Have power to compound and release in whole or in part any debt due to the county when in their opinion the interest of their county will not be prejudiced thereby, except in cases where they or any of them are personally interested;

(9) Have power to administer oaths or affirmations necessary in the discharge of their duties and commit for contempt any witness refusing to testify before them with the same power as justices of the peace.

Passed the Senate February 1, 1961.

Passed the House February 16, 1961.

Approved by the Governor February 21, 1961.

CHAPTER 28.

[S. B. 98.]

WATER DISTRICTS—MERGER.

AN ACT relating to mergers of certain water districts; and adding a new chapter to Title 57 RCW.

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

SECTION 1. Whenever there are two water districts, the territories of which are adjoining or in close proximity to and in the same county with each

Merger of
water districts,
procedure.

other, and the number of electors of one is at least two times the number of electors of the other, the smaller of such districts may merge into the larger one, which will survive under its original number.

County commissioner's determination.

SEC. 2. Whenever the boards of water commissioners of both such districts determine by resolution that the merger of such districts shall be conducive to the public health, welfare and convenience and to be of special benefit to the lands of such districts, they shall enter into an agreement providing for the merger.

Certification of agreement to county auditor. Call of election—Notice.

SEC. 3. The respective boards of water commissioners of said districts shall certify such agreement to the county auditor of the county in which the districts are located. Thereupon, the said county auditor shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the smaller district the proposition of whether the smaller district shall be merged into the larger district. Notice of the election shall be given and the election conducted in accordance with the general election laws.

Post election procedure.

SEC. 4. If at such election a majority of the voters of the smaller water district shall vote in favor of the merger, the county canvassing board shall so declare in its canvass and the return of such election shall be made within ten days after the date thereof, and upon such return the merger shall be effective and the smaller water district shall cease to exist and shall become a part of the larger water district. The water commissioners of the smaller district shall cease to hold office and the affairs of the merged districts shall be managed by the water commissioners of the surviving district.

Obligations upon merger.

SEC. 5. All funds and property, real and personal, of the smaller district, shall vest in and become the property of the merged district: *Provided*, That unless the agreement of merger provides to the

contrary, any outstanding indebtedness of any form, owed by the districts, shall remain the obligation of the area of the original debtor district; and the water commissioners of the merged water district shall make such levies, assessments or charges for service upon said area or the water users therein as shall pay off such indebtedness at maturity.

Passed the Senate January 31, 1961.

Passed the House February 16, 1961.

Approved by the Governor February 21, 1961.

CHAPTER 29.

[Engrossed S. B. 140.]

CONTROLLED ATMOSPHERE STORAGE OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES.

AN ACT relating to controlled atmosphere storage of fruits and vegetables; providing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. For the purpose of this act:

(1) "Department" means the department of agriculture of the state of Washington.

(2) "Director" means the director of the department or his duly appointed representative.

(3) "Person" means a natural person, individual, or firm, partnership, corporation, company, society and association and every officer, agent or employee thereof. This term shall import either the singular or plural, as the case may be.

(4) "Controlled atmosphere storage" means any storage warehouse consisting of one or more rooms, or one or more rooms in any one facility in which atmospheric gases are controlled in their amount and in degrees of temperature for the purpose of controlling the condition and maturity of any fresh

Controlled
atmosphere
storage act.
Definitions.