

the acts or omissions of said department or its representatives.

Passed the House February 21, 1963.

Passed the Senate March 12, 1963.

Approved by the Governor March 25, 1963.

CHAPTER 101.

[H. B. 297.]

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS—GROUP INSURANCE.

AN ACT relating to fire protection districts; authorizing group insurance for fire protection district personnel; and amending section 20, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 as last amended by section 2, chapter 237, Laws of 1959 and RCW 52.08.030.

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

RCW 52.08.030 amended.

SECTION 1. Section 20, chapter 34, Laws of 1939 as last amended by section 2, chapter 237, Laws of 1959 and RCW 52.08.030 are each amended to read as follows:

Fire protection districts. Specific powers—Joint operations.

Any fire protection district organized under this act shall have authority:

(1) To lease, own, maintain, operate and provide fire engines and all other necessary or proper apparatus, facilities, machinery and equipment for the prevention and extinguishment of fires, and protection of life and property;

(2) To lease, own, maintain and operate real property, improvements and fixtures thereon suitable and convenient for housing, repairing and caring for fire fighting equipment;

(3) To enter into contract with any incorporated city or town whereby such city or town shall furnish fire prevention and fire extinguishment service to the districts and the inhabitants thereof under the provisions of this act upon such terms as the board of directors of the district shall determine. To

contract with another county fire protection district, or with any town, city or municipal corporation or governmental agency or private person or persons to consolidate or cooperate for mutual fire fighting protection and prevention purposes. Any city, town, municipal corporation or governmental agency may contract with a county fire protection district established and maintained under the provisions of this act for the purpose of affording such district fire fighting and protection equipment and service or fire prevention facilities, and in so contracting the district, city, town, municipal corporation or other governmental agency shall be deemed for all purposes to act within its governmental capacity. Any county fire protection district established and maintained under the provisions of this act, or any city, town, municipal corporation or other governmental agency is hereby authorized to contract with any person, firm or corporation for the purpose of affording fire fighting, protection or fire prevention facilities to such person, firm or corporation and such contractual relation shall be deemed for all purposes to be within the governmental power of such rural fire protection district, city, town, municipal corporation or other governmental agency;

(4) Fire protection districts situated in different counties may contract to operate jointly in carrying out the objects of their creation. Contracts for joint operation may provide for joint ownership of property and equipment, and may authorize a joint board of fire commissioners of the contracting districts to manage the affairs of the joint operations; to employ and discharge the necessary agents and employees and fix their respective wages and salaries; to provide and designate a suitable place in any county in which any of the contracting districts is situated, as a regular meeting place for the joint board; to incur the necessary expenses and direct

Fire protection districts. Specific powers—Joint operation.

the payment therefor from the funds of the contracting districts in such proportion as the joint boards shall determine; and to do all things as may in the judgment of the joint board be required to carry out the joint operations of the contracting districts.

The joint board shall consist of the members of the boards of the contracting districts and a majority of the membership of each district board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the joint board. The members of the boards of fire commissioners of the contracting districts shall organize as a joint board annually in January after the second Monday thereof, elect a chairman and appoint a secretary for the ensuing year. Any member of the board of any contracting district may act as secretary of the joint board or the joint board may appoint such other person as the joint board may determine. The joint board shall prepare the annual budget for the joint operation of the contracting districts and shall determine the share of revenues for the joint operation to be raised by each district and the share of the expense of joint operation to be paid by each district in the ensuing year, and the secretary of the joint board shall certify and deliver within the time required by law, to the county auditor of each county involved, the part of the budget to be raised by the district in that county and the tax officials of that county shall levy and collect the tax, and the county treasurer shall pay vouchers drawn by the joint board on the funds of the district in that county upon warrants issued by the county auditor of that county.

Contracts for joint operation of fire districts, as herein authorized shall run from year to year and as of January 1st may be terminated by written notice of the board of fire commissioners of any contracting district to the other contracting district or districts on or before July 1st and the contract for

joint operations shall terminate on January 1st following: *Provided*, That all obligations of the joint operations must be paid or definitely arranged for before contract termination and no notice of termination shall relieve any contracting district of its unpaid obligation incurred under the contract for joint operation; Proviso.

(5) To encourage uniformity and coordination of fire protection district operation programs, the fire commissioners of two or more fire protection districts, may form an association thereof, for the purpose of securing data and information of value in fighting and in preventing fires; hold and attend meetings thereof; and promote more economical and efficient operation of the associated fire protection districts. The directors of fire protection districts so associated shall adopt articles of association, select a chairman and secretary, and such other officers as they may determine, and may employ and discharge such agents and employees as the officers deem convenient to carry out the purposes of the association. The expenses of the association may be paid from fire protection district expense funds upon vouchers of the respective associated districts: *Provided*, That the aggregate contributions made to the association by any district in any calendar year shall not exceed one-tenth of one mill of the tax valuation of the district; Proviso.

(6) Two or more fire protection districts may contract with each other and such a district may contract with a city or county or the state supervisor of forestry or any association approved by him for the joint leasing, ownership, maintenance and operation of all necessary and proper apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment for the elimination of fire hazards and for the protection of life and property within the contracting districts, and of real property, improvements and fixtures thereon

Fire protection districts. Specific powers.

suitable and convenient for the housing, repairing, and caring for such apparatus, facilities, machinery, and equipment, and may contribute their agreed proportion of the cost and expense thereof:

Such contracts shall be executed by the commissioners of the contracting districts and, when the contract is between such districts, the terms and conditions thereof shall be carried out by the boards of commissioners acting jointly;

(7) To do all things and perform all acts not otherwise prohibited by law.

(8) May enter into contract to provide group life insurance for the benefit of the personnel of the fire districts, but not to exceed ten thousand dollars coverage per covered employee, and not more than fifty percent of the cost of such insurance shall be borne by the employer fire district.

Passed the House March 1, 1963.

Passed the Senate March 12, 1963.

Approved by the Governor March 25, 1963.

CHAPTER 102.

[H. B. 319.]

PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICTS—SURPLUS PROPERTY, DISPOSITION.

AN ACT relating to public hospital districts; and adding a new section to chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and to chapter 70.44 RCW.

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

New section.

SECTION 1. There is added to chapter 264, Laws of 1945 and to chapter 70.44 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Public hospital districts. Sale, lease of surplus property authorized.

The board of commissioners of any public hospital district may lease out or may sell and convey for cash, at public or private sale, surplus property