

## CHAPTER 217.

[House Bill No. 225.]

## SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT relating to soil and water conservation districts; amending section 3, chapter 304, Laws of 1955 as amended by section 3, chapter 240, Laws of 1961 and RCW 89.08.030; and amending section 6, chapter 187, Laws of 1939 as last amended by section 11, chapter 240, Laws of 1961 and RCW 89.08.190.

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

RCW 89.08.030  
amended.

Section 1. Section 3, chapter 304, Laws of 1955 as amended by section 3, chapter 240, Laws of 1961 and RCW 89.08.030 are each amended to read as follows:

Soil and water  
conservation  
districts—  
Conservation  
committee.

There is hereby created as an agency of the state, the state soil and water conservation committee.

The committee shall consist of seven members, two of whom are ex officio. Two members shall be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be a landowner or operator of a farm. The three elected members shall be landowners or operators of a farm and shall be elected as herein provided. The appointed members shall serve for a term of four years.

The three elected members shall be elected for three-year terms, one shall be elected each year by the district supervisors at their annual statewide meeting. One of the members shall reside in eastern Washington, one in central Washington and one in western Washington, the specific boundaries to be determined by district supervisors. At the first such election, the term of the member from western Washington shall be one year, central Washington two years and eastern Washington three years, and successors shall be elected for three years.

Unexpired term vacancies in the office of appointed committee members shall be filled by ap-

pointment by the governor in the same manner as full-term appointments. Unexpired terms of elected committee members shall be filled by the regional vice president of the Washington association of soil and water conservation districts who is serving that part of the state where the vacancy occurs, such term to continue only until district supervisors can fill the unexpired term by electing the committee member.

The director of the department of conservation and the dean of the college of agriculture at Washington State University shall be ex officio members of the committee. An ex officio member of the committee shall hold office so long as he retains the office by virtue of which he is a member of the committee.

Sec. 2. Section 6, chapter 187, Laws of 1939 as last amended by section 11, chapter 240, Laws of 1961 and RCW 89.08.190 are each amended to read as follows:

RCW 89.08.190  
amended.

Within thirty days after the issuance of the certificate of organization, unless the time is extended by the committee, petitions shall be filed with the committee to nominate candidates for the three elected supervisors. The petition shall be signed by not less than five district voters, and a voter may sign petitions nominating more than one person.

Soil and water  
conservation  
districts—  
Nomination  
and election of  
supervisors.

In the case of a new district, the committee shall give due notice to elect the three supervisors. All provisions pertaining to elections on the creation of a district shall govern this election so far as applicable. The names of all nominees shall appear on the ballot in alphabetical order, together with instructions to vote for three. The three candidates receiving the most votes shall be declared elected supervisors, the one receiving the most being elected for a three-year term, the next for two and the last for one year. An alternate method of dividing the dis-

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trict into three zones may be used when requested by the board of supervisors and approved by the committee. In such case, instructions will be to vote for one in each zone. The candidate receiving the most votes in a zone shall be declared elected.

Each year after the creation of the first board of supervisors, the board shall by resolution and by giving due notice, set a date during the first quarter of each calendar year for an annual meeting of the voters in the district, at which time it shall conduct an election, present an annual report and a financial statement. Names of candidates nominated by petition shall appear in alphabetical order on the ballots, together with an extra line wherein may be written in the name of any other candidate. The committee shall establish procedures for elections, canvass the returns and announce the official results thereof. Election results may be announced by polling officials during the annual meeting, subject to official canvass of ballots by the committee. Supervisors elected shall take office at the first board meeting which shall be held within thirty days following the election.

Passed the House January 24, 1967.

Passed the Senate March 8, 1967.

Approved by the Governor March 21, 1967.