

CHAPTER 42
[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 40]
TAXING DISTRICTS--LIMITATIONS OF INDEBTEDNESS

AN ACT Relating to taxing districts; amending section 7, chapter 59, Laws of 1955 and RCW 27.12.070; amending section 1, chapter 59, Laws of 1955 and RCW 27.12.222; amending section 2, chapter 244, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28.47.801; amending section 2, chapter 244, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.47.801; amending section 1, page 324, Laws of 1909 as last amended by section 1, chapter 142, Laws of 1969 and RCW 28.51.010; amending section 28A.51.010, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 2, chapter 142, Laws of 1969 and RCW 28A.51.010; amending section 2, page 324, Laws of 1909 and RCW 28.51.020; amending section 28A.51.020, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.51.020; amending section 1, chapter 62, Laws of 1965 and RCW 28.58.550; amending section 28A.58.550, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.58.550; amending section 35.37.040, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.37.040; amending section 35.58.450, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section ..., chapter ... (HB...), Laws of 1970 1st ex. sess. and RCW 35.58.450; amending section 35.61.100, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.61.100; amending section 35.61.110, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.61.110; amending section 35A.40.090, chapter 119, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. and RCW 35A.40.090; amending section 36.67.010, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.67.010; amending section 36.67.020, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as amended by section 2, chapter 107, Laws of 1967 and RCW 36.67.020; amending section 13, chapter 218, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.68.520; amending section 36.69.140, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as last amended by section 5, chapter 26, Laws of 1969 and RCW 36.69.140; amending section 36.76.010, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as amended by section 72, chapter 232, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW

36.76.010; amending section 36.76.080, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.76.080; amending section 2, chapter 4, Laws of 1917 and RCW 37.16.010; amending section 3, chapter 4, Laws of 1917 as amended by section 74, chapter 232, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 37.16.020; amending section 4, chapter 107, Laws of 1937 and RCW 39.28.030; amending section 1, chapter 158, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 1, chapter 92, Laws of 1963 and RCW 39.30.010; amending section 1, chapter 143, Laws of 1917 as last amended by section 3, chapter 142, Laws of 1969 and RCW 39.36.020; amending section 31, chapter 181, Laws of 1961 and RCW 47.57.530; amending section 1, chapter 21, Laws of 1965 and RCW 52.08.080; amending section 3, chapter 24, Laws of 1951 2nd ex. sess. as amended by section 4, chapter 176, Laws of 1953 and RCW 52.16.080; amending section 4, chapter 65, Laws of 1955 and RCW 53.08.030; amending section 12, chapter 65, Laws of 1955 as last amended by section 1, chapter 54, Laws of 1965 ex. sess. and RCW 53.36.030; amending section 7, chapter 1, Laws of 1931 as amended by section 14, chapter 232, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 54.24.018; amending section 42, chapter 210, Laws of 1941 as amended by section 15, chapter 140, Laws of 1945 and RCW 56.16.050; amending section 19, chapter 114, Laws of 1929 and RCW 57.20.110; amending section 20, chapter 114, Laws of 1929 and RCW 57.20.120; amending section 1, chapter 3, Laws of 1911 and RCW 88.32.230; amending section 134, chapter 254, Laws of 1927 and RCW 89.30.400; amending section 135, chapter 254, Laws of 1927 and RCW 89.30.403; amending section 16, chapter 26, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 8, chapter 164, Laws of 1967 and RCW 86.05.920; adding a new section to chapter 39.36 RCW; and prescribing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 39.36 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Whenever used in this 1970 amendatory act, the term "value of the taxable property" shall mean the actual value of the taxable property in a taxing district incurring indebtedness, as the term "taxing district" is defined in RCW 39.36.010, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness except that in incorporated cities the assessment shall be taken from the last assessment for city purposes.

Sec. 2. Section 7, chapter 59, Laws of 1955 and RCW 27.12.070 are each amended to read as follows:

At no time shall the total indebtedness of the district exceed an amount that could be raised by a ~~((two))~~ one mill levy on the then existing ~~((valuation-of-the))~~ value of the taxable property of the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, except as provided in RCW 27.12.222 or RCW 84.52.052 or 84.52.056. The county treasurer of the county in which any rural county library district is created shall receive and disburse all district revenues and collect all taxes levied under this chapter.

Sec. 3. Section 1, chapter 59, Laws of 1955 and RCW 27.12-.222 are each amended to read as follows:

In addition to the indebtedness authorized by RCW 27.12.150 and 27.12.070, rural county library districts and intercounty rural library districts may incur indebtedness for capital purposes to the full extent permitted by the Constitution and may issue general obligation bonds to pay therefor, not to exceed an amount equal to ~~((two))~~ one-half of one percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act. Any such indebtedness shall be authorized by resolution of the board of library trustees, and the board of library trustees shall submit the question to the qualified electors of the district for their ratification or rejection whether or not such indebtedness shall be incurred and such bonds issued. Such proposition to be effective must be authorized by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the

electors within the district voting at a general or special election to be held for the purpose of authorizing such indebtedness and bond issue at which election the number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in such taxing district at the last preceding general election. If the voters shall so authorize, the district may levy annual taxes in excess of normal legal limitations to pay the principal and interest upon such bonds as they shall become due. The excess levies mentioned in this section or in RCW 84.52.052 or 84.52-.056 may be made notwithstanding anything contained in RCW 27.12.050, 27.12.070 or 27.12.150 or any other statute pertaining to such library districts.

Sec. 4. Section 2, chapter 244, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28.47.801 are each amended to read as follows:

Funds appropriated to the state board of education from the common school construction fund shall be allotted by the state board of education in accordance with the provisions of RCW 28.41.140 and 28.47.800 through 28.47.811: PROVIDED, That no allotment shall be made to a school district for the purpose aforesaid until such district has provided funds for school building construction purposes through the authorization of bonds or through the authorization of excess tax levies or both in an amount equivalent to ~~((ten))~~ two and one-half percent of the value of its taxable ((valuation)) property, as defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, or such lesser amount as may be required by the state board of education. The state board of education shall prescribe and make effective such rules and regulations as are necessary to equate insofar as possible the efforts made by school districts to provide capital funds by the means aforesaid.

Sec. 5. Section 2, chapter 244, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.47.801 are each amended to read as follows:

Funds appropriated to the state board of education from the common school construction fund shall be allotted by the state board

of education in accordance with the provisions of RCW 28A.41.140 and 28A.47.800 through 28A.47.811: PROVIDED, That no allotment shall be made to a school district for the purpose aforesaid until such district has provided funds for school building construction purposes through the authorization of bonds or through the authorization of excess tax levies or both in an amount equivalent to ~~((ten))~~ two and one-half percent of the value of its taxable ~~((valuation))~~ property, as defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, or such lesser amount as may be required by the state board of education. The state board of education shall prescribe and make effective such rules and regulations as are necessary to equate insofar as possible the efforts made by school districts to provide capital funds by the means aforesaid.

Sec. 6. Section 1, page 324, Laws of 1909 as last amended by section 1, chapter 142, Laws of 1969 and RCW 28.51.010 are each amended to read as follows:

The board of directors of any school district may borrow money and issue negotiable coupon bonds therefor for the purpose of:

(1) Funding outstanding indebtedness or bonds theretofore issued; or

(2) For the purchase of sites for all buildings, playgrounds, physical education and athletic facilities and structures authorized by law or necessary or proper to carry out the functions of a school district; or

(3) For erecting all buildings authorized by law, including but not limited to those mentioned in subparagraph (2) immediately above or necessary or proper to carry out the functions of a school district, and providing the necessary furniture, apparatus, or equipment therefor; or

(4) For any or all of these purposes.

Neither the amount of money borrowed nor bonds issued therefor shall exceed ~~((five-percent-of-the-value-of-the-taxable-property-in such-district,-as-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-roll-for-county~~

~~and state purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness, except that in cities incorporated under special charter the ascertainment shall be made from the last assessment for city purposes. PROVIDED, That any school district may become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding an additional five percent of actual value, determined as herein provided for capital outlays)~~ the limitation of indebtedness prescribed by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

Bonds may be issued only when authorized by the vote of the qualified electors of the district as provided by law.

The bonds so issued shall be in such form, for such terms, bear such interest, be sold in such manner, and be payable and redeemable, as the board of directors shall determine in accordance with this chapter and chapter 39.44 RCW.

Sec. 7. Section 28A.51.010, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 2, chapter 142, Laws of 1969 and RCW 28A.51.010 are each amended to read as follows:

The board of directors of any school district may borrow money and issue negotiable coupon bonds therefor for the purpose of:

- (1) Funding outstanding indebtedness or bonds theretofore issued; or
- (2) For the purchase of sites for all buildings, playgrounds, physical education and athletic facilities and structures authorized by law or necessary or proper to carry out the functions of a school district; or
- (3) For erecting all buildings authorized by law, including but not limited to those mentioned in subparagraph (2) immediately above or necessary or proper to carry out the functions of a school district, and providing the necessary furniture, apparatus, or equipment therefor; or
- (4) For any or all of these purposes.

Neither the amount of money borrowed nor bonds issued therefor shall exceed (~~five percent of the value of the taxable property in~~

~~such district as ascertained by the last assessment roll for county and state purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness, except that in cities incorporated under special charter the ascertainment shall be made from the last assessment for city purposes. PROVIDED, That any school district may become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding an additional five percent of actual value, determined as herein provided for capital outlays)~~ the limitation of indebtedness prescribed by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended.

Bonds may be issued only when authorized by the vote of the qualified electors of the district as provided by law.

The bonds so issued shall be in such form, for such terms, bear such interest, be sold in such manner, and be payable and redeemable, as the board of directors shall determine in accordance with this chapter and chapter 39.44 RCW.

Sec. 8. Section 2, page 324, Laws of 1909 and RCW 28.51.020 are each amended to read as follows:

The question whether bonds shall be issued, as provided in RCW 28.51.010, shall be determined at an election to be held in the manner prescribed by law for holding annual school elections. Notice therefor shall state the amount of bonds proposed to be issued, time they are to run, and purpose for which the money is to be used. The ballots must contain the words "Bonds, yes," or "Bonds, no." If a majority of the votes cast at such election are "Bonds, yes," the board of directors must issue such bonds: PROVIDED, That if the amount of bonds to be issued, together with any outstanding indebtedness of the district, exceeds ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, then three-fifths of the votes cast at such election must be "Bonds, yes," before the board of directors are authorized to issue said bonds. The bonds shall be in such form as the board of directors may prescribe, and shall, with the coupons, be

signed by the board of directors and countersigned by the clerk of the school district: PROVIDED, That in school districts of the first class said bonds with the coupons, shall be signed in the corporate name of the district by the president of the board of directors thereof and attested by the secretary of the board, except that said coupons may bear the lithograph signatures, only, of the said president and secretary; in districts of the first class the corporate seal of the said district shall be affixed to each bond by the secretary thereof.

Sec. 9. Section 28A.51.020, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.51.020 are each amended to read as follows:

The question whether the bonds shall be issued, as provided in RCW 28A.51.010, shall be determined at an election to be held in the manner prescribed by law for holding annual school elections. Notice therefor to be given in such manner as provided in RCW 29.27.080 shall state the amount of bonds proposed to be issued, time they are to run, and the purpose for which the money is to be used. The ballots must contain the words "Bonds, yes," or "Bonds, no." If a majority of the votes cast at such election are "Bonds, yes," the board of directors must issue such bonds: PROVIDED, That if the amount of bonds to be issued, together with any outstanding indebtedness of the district, exceeds (~~one-and-one-half~~) three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, then three-fifths of the votes cast at such election must be "Bonds, yes," before the board of directors is authorized to issue said bonds. Except as otherwise provided for facsimile signatures on bonds and coupons in chapter 39.44 RCW, or as otherwise in this chapter provided, bonds with the coupons shall be signed in the corporate name of the district by the president or chairman of the board of directors thereof and attested by the school district superintendent as secretary of the board. In districts of the first class the corporate seal of the said district shall be affixed to

each bond by the school district superintendent thereof.

Sec. 10. Section 1, chapter 62, Laws of 1965 and RCW 28.58-.550 are each amended to read as follows:

Any school district may execute an executory conditional sales contract with any other municipal corporation, the state or any of its political subdivisions, the government of the United States or any private party for the purchase of any real or personal property, or property rights, in connection with the exercise of any powers or duties which they now or hereafter are authorized to exercise, if the entire amount of the purchase price specified in such contract does not result in a total indebtedness in excess of ~~((one-and-one-half percent-of-the-assessed-valuation-of-the-taxable-property-in-such school-district))~~ the limitation authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters: PROVIDED, That if such a proposed contract would result in a total indebtedness in excess of ~~((one-and-one-half-percent-of-the assessed-valuation-of-the-taxable-property-of-such-school-district, as-the-case-may-be))~~ the limitation authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters, a proposition in regard to whether or not such a contract may be executed shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are submitted to the voters: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any school district may jointly execute contracts authorized by this section.

Sec. 11. Section 28A.58.550, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.58.550 are each amended to read as follows:

Any school district may execute an executory conditional sales contract with any other municipal corporation, the state or any of its political subdivisions, the government of the United States or any private party for the purchase of any real or personal property, or property rights, in connection with the exercise of any powers or duties which they now or hereafter are authorized to exercise, if the

entire amount of the purchase price specified in such contract does not result in a total indebtedness in excess of (~~one-and-one-half percent-of-the-assessed-valuation-of-the-taxable-property-in-such school-district~~) the limitation authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters: PROVIDED, That if such a proposed contract would result in a total indebtedness in excess of (~~one-and-one-half-percent-of-the-assessed-valuation-of-the-taxable-property-of-such-school-district, as-the-case-may-be~~) the limitation authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters, a proposition in regard to whether or not such a contract may be executed shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are submitted to the voters: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any school district may jointly with another school district execute contracts authorized by this section.

Sec. 12. Section 35.37.040, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.37.040 are each amended to read as follows:

Every city and town, may, without a vote of the people, contract indebtedness or borrow money for strictly municipal purposes on the credit of the city or town and issue negotiable bonds therefor in an amount which when added to its existing indebtedness will not exceed the amount of indebtedness authorized by chapter 39.36 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, to be incurred without the assent of the voters.

When bonds are issued under this section the ordinance providing therefor shall contain a statement showing the (~~assessed-valuation~~) value of the taxable property in the city or town (~~as-ascertained-by-the-last-preceding-assessment-for-city-or-town-purposes~~), as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, together with the amount of the existing indebtedness of the city or town, which indebtedness shall include

the amount for which such bonds are issued. Passage of such ordinance shall require the votes of at least four councilmen.

Sec. 13. Section 35.58.450, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 1, chapter ... (HB...), Laws of 1970 1st ex. sess. and RCW 35.58.450 are each amended to read as follows:

Notwithstanding the limitations of chapter 39.36 RCW and any other statutory limitations otherwise applicable and limiting municipal debt, a metropolitan municipal corporation shall have the power to authorize and to issue general obligation bonds and to pledge the full faith and credit of the corporation to the payment thereof, for any authorized capital purpose of the metropolitan municipal corporation: PROVIDED, That a proposition authorizing the issuance of any such bonds to be issued in excess of ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the ~~((actual))~~ value of the taxable property therein ~~((as-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for-state-and-county-purposes-previous-to-the-incurring-of-such-indebtedness))~~, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, shall have been submitted to the electors of the metropolitan municipal corporation at a special election and assented to by three-fifths of the persons voting on said proposition at said election at which such election the total number of persons voting on such bond proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast within the area of said metropolitan municipal corporation at the last preceding state general election. Such general obligation bonds may be authorized in any total amount in one or more propositions and the amount of such authorization may exceed the amount of bonds which could then lawfully be issued. Such bonds may be issued in one or more series from time to time out of such authorization but at no time shall the total general indebtedness of the metropolitan municipal corporation exceed five percent of the ~~((actual))~~ value of the taxable property therein ~~((to-be-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for~~

~~state-and-county-purposes-previous-to-the-incurrence-of-such-indebted-~~
~~ness))~~ , as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act. Both principal of and interest on such general obligation bonds shall be payable from annual tax levies to be made upon all the taxable property within the metropolitan municipal corporation in excess of the forty mill tax limit and may also be made payable from any other taxes or any special assessments which the metropolitan municipal corporation may be authorized to levy and from any otherwise unpledged revenue which may be derived from the ownership or operation of properties or facilities incident to the performance of the authorized function for which such bonds are issued. The metropolitan council may include in the principal amount of such bond issue an amount for engineering, architectural, planning, financial, legal, urban design and other services incident to acquisition or construction solely for authorized capital purposes and may include an amount to establish a guaranty fund for revenue bonds issued solely for capital purposes.

General obligation bonds shall bear interest at a rate of not to exceed eight percent per annum and shall mature in not to exceed forty years from the date of issue. The various annual maturities shall commence not more than five years from the date of issue of the bonds and shall as nearly as practicable be in such amounts as will, together with the interest on all outstanding bonds of such issue, be met by equal annual tax levies.

Such bonds shall be signed by the chairman and attested by the secretary of the metropolitan council, one of which signatures may be a facsimile signature and the seal of the metropolitan corporation shall be impressed or imprinted thereon. Each of the interest coupons shall be signed by the facsimile signatures of said officials. General obligation bonds shall be sold at public sale as provided by law for sale of general obligation bonds of cities of the first class and at a price not less than par and accrued interest.

Sec. 14. Section 35.61.100, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.61.100 are each amended to read as follows:

Every metropolitan park district through its board of commissioners may contract indebtedness for park, boulevard, aviation landings, playgrounds and parkway purposes, and the extension and maintenance thereof, not exceeding ~~((three-twentieths))~~ three-fortieths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such metropolitan park district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act. ~~((The-taxable property-shall-be-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for-state-and county-purposes-previous-to-the-incurring-of-such-indebtedness.))~~

Sec. 15. Section 35.61.110, chapter 7, Laws of 1965 and RCW 35.61.110 are each amended to read as follows:

Every metropolitan park district may contract indebtedness in excess of ~~((three-twentieths))~~ three-fortieths of one percent of the value of the taxable property but not exceeding in amount, together with existing indebtedness, ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, whenever three-fifths of the voters voting at an election held in the metropolitan park district assent thereto; the election may be either a special or a general election, and the park commissioners of the metropolitan park district may cause the question of incurring such indebtedness, and issuing negotiable bonds of such metropolitan park district, to be submitted to the qualified voters of the district at any time.

Sec. 16. Section 35A.40.090, chapter 119, Laws of 1967 ex. sess. and RCW 35A.40.090 are each amended to read as follows:

No code city shall incur an indebtedness exceeding ~~((one-and one-half))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property in such city without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose nor, with such assent, to exceed ~~((five))~~ two and

one-half percent ((~~one~~) of the value of the taxable property therein ((~~being twice the assessed valuation~~)-as-ascertained-by-the-last completed-and-balanced-tax-rolls-of-such-city)) except as otherwise provided in chapter 39.36 RCW and subject to the provisions of this chapter and shall have the authority and be subject to the limitations provided in RCW 84.52.050 relating to levy of taxes within the forty mill limit. The term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 17. Section 36.67.010, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.67.010 are each amended to read as follows:

A county through its board of county commissioners may contract indebtedness for general county purposes, not exceeding in amount, together with the existing indebtedness of the county, ((~~one and one-half~~)) three-fourths of one percent ((~~of the last assessed valuation~~)) of the value of the taxable property in such county, ((~~to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes previous to the incurring of such indebtedness~~)) as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 18. Section 36.67.020, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as amended by section 2, chapter 107, Laws of 1967 and RCW 36.67.020 are each amended to read as follows:

A county may contract indebtedness for strictly county purposes in excess of the amount named in RCW 36.67.010, but not exceeding in amount, together with the existing indebtedness, ((~~five~~)) two and one-half percent ((~~one~~) of the value of the taxable property therein ((~~being twice the assessed valuation~~),-to-be-ascertained as-provided-in-RCW-36.67.010)), as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, whenever three-fifths of the voters of the county assent thereto, at an election to be held for that purpose, consistent with the general election laws, which election may be either a special or general election.

Sec. 19. Section 13, chapter 218, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.68-.520 are each amended to read as follows:

A service area shall not have power to levy an annual authorized levy, but it shall have the power to levy a tax upon the property included within the service district in the manner prescribed for cities for the purpose of exceeding the limitations established by section 2, Article 7 as amended by Amendment 17 of the Constitution and by RCW 84.52.052.

The special voted levy may be either for operating fund or for capital outlay, or for a cumulative reserve fund.

A service area may issue general obligations bonds for capital purposes only, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, equal to ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-eighths of one percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property within the district, and may provide for the retirement thereof by levies in excess of millage in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.52.056: PROVIDED, That such districts may issue bonds equal to ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property within the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, when such bonds are approved by the voters of the district at a special election called for the purpose.

Sec. 20. Section 36.69.140, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as last amended by section 5, chapter 26, Laws of 1969 and RCW 36.69.140 are each amended to read as follows:

A park and recreation district shall not have power to levy an annual authorized levy, but it shall have the power to levy a tax upon the property included within the district, in the manner prescribed for cities for the purpose of exceeding the limitations established by Article VII, section 2, as amended by Amendment 17, of the Constitution and by RCW 84.52.052. Such special, voted levy may be either for operating funds or for capital outlay, or for a cumulative reserve fund. A park and recreation district may issue gen-

eral obligation bonds for capital purposes only, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness equal to ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-eighths of one percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property within such district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, and may provide for the retirement thereof by levies in excess of millage limitations in accordance with the provisions of RCW 84.52.056.

Sec. 21. Section 36.76.010, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 as amended by section 72, chapter 232, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 36-.76.010 are each amended to read as follows:

The board of any county may, whenever a majority thereof so decides, submit to the voters of their county the question whether the board shall be authorized to issue coupon bonds in an amount not exceeding ~~((five))~~ one and one-fourth percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property in the county, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, bearing a rate of interest not exceeding eight percent per year, and payable and redeemable at a time fixed by the board, for the purpose of making a new road or roads, or bridge or bridges, or improving established roads or bridges within the county.

Sec. 22. Section 36.76.080, chapter 4, Laws of 1963 and RCW 36.76.080 are each amended to read as follows:

The board of any county may, whenever a majority thereof so decides, submit to the voters of their county the question whether the board shall be authorized to issue negotiable coupon road bonds of the county in an amount not exceeding ~~((five))~~ one and one-fourth percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property in the county, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, for the purpose of constructing a new road or roads, or improving established roads within the county, or for aiding in so doing, as herein prescribed.

The word "improvement" wherever used in this act shall embrace

any undertaking for any or all of such purposes. The word "road" shall embrace all highways, roads, streets, avenues, bridges, and other public ways.

The provisions of this act shall apply not only to roads which are or shall be under the general control of the county, but also to all parts of state roads in such county and to all roads which are situated or are to be constructed wholly or partly within the limits of any incorporated city or town therein, provided the board of county commissioners finds that they form or will become a part of the public highway system of the county, and will connect the existing roads therein. Such finding may be made by the board of county commissioners at any stage of the proceedings before the actual delivery of the bonds.

The constructing or improving of any and all such roads, or the aiding therein, is declared to be a county purpose.

The question of the issuance of bonds for any undertaking which relates to a number of different roads or parts thereof, whether intended to supply the whole expenditure or to aid therein, may be submitted to the voters as a single proposition in all cases where such course is consistent with the provisions of the state Constitution. If the county commissioners, in submitting a proposition relating to different roads or parts thereof, find that such proposition has for its object the furtherance and accomplishment of the construction of a system of public and county highways in such county, and constitutes and has for its object a single purpose, such finding shall be presumed to be correct, and upon the issuance of the bonds the presumption shall become conclusive.

No proposition for bonds shall be submitted which proposes that more than forty percent of the proceeds thereof shall be expended within any city or town or within any number of cities and towns.

Sec. 23. Section 2, chapter 4, Laws of 1917 and RCW 37.16-.010 are each amended to read as follows:

Whenever the secretary of war shall agree, on behalf of the

federal government, to establish in any county now or hereafter organized in this state a permanent mobilization, training and supply station for any or all such military purposes as are now or may be then or thereafter authorized or provided by or under federal law, on condition that land in such county aggregating approximately a designated number of acres at such location or locations as may have been or thereafter be from time to time selected or approved by the secretary of war, be conveyed to the United States, with the consent of the state of Washington, free from cost to the United States, and the board of county commissioners of such county shall adjudge that it is desirable and for the general welfare and benefit of the people of the county and for the interest of the county to incur an indebtedness in an amount sufficient to acquire land in such county aggregating approximately the number of acres so designated at such location or locations as have been theretofore or may be thereafter selected or approved by the secretary of war, and convey all of such lands to the United States to be used by the United States for any or all such military purposes, including supply stations, the mobilization, disciplining and training of the United States army, state militia and other military organizations as are now or may be then or thereafter authorized or provided by or under federal law, such county is hereby authorized and empowered by and through its board of county commissioners to contract indebtedness for such purposes in any amount not exceeding, together with the existing indebtedness of such county, ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property of such county, ((to-be-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for state-and-county-purposes-previous-to-the-incurring-of-such-indebtedness)) as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, whenever three-fifths of the voters of such county, voting on the question assent thereto at an election to be held for that purpose consistent with the general election laws, which election may be a special or general election: PROVIDED, That if the election be a special election notice thereof

shall be given and the question submitted as provided in section 4801 of Remington & Ballinger's Codes and Statutes of Washington [1919 c 163 § 14, RRS § 5174] and in section 4890 of 3rd Remington & Ballinger's Codes and Statutes of Washington [RCW 29.27.060].

Sec. 24. Section 3, chapter 4, Laws of 1917 as amended by section 74, chapter 232, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 37.16.020 are each amended to read as follows:

Whenever the board of county commissioners of any county shall submit to the voters of such county at an election to be held under the provisions of RCW 37.16.010, the question of issuing bonds to procure money for such purposes and three-fifths of the voters of such county voting on the question have assented thereto, and the amount of such bonds, together with the already existing indebtedness will not exceed (~~five~~) two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property of such county, (~~to be ascertained as provided in RCW 37.16.010~~) as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, then the board of county commissioners of such county is authorized and empowered to issue its negotiable bonds in the name of the county for the purposes for which such election was held. It being hereby declared that such purposes are purposes for which, under legislative authority, the county availing itself of the provisions of this chapter may lawfully incur indebtedness. Such bonds to be negotiable bonds of such county, payable in not more than twenty years, with interest not exceeding eight percent per annum, payable annually.

Sec. 25. Section 4, chapter 107, Laws of 1937 and RCW 39.28-.030 are each amended to read as follows:

The powers conferred by RCW 39.28.010 through 39.28.030 shall be in addition and supplemental to and not in substitution for the powers now or hereafter conferred upon any municipality by any other law. RCW 39.28.010 through 39.28.030 is intended to aid in relieving the existing emergency by simplifying the procedure for the construction and financing of public works projects. RCW 39.28.010 through

39.28.030 is remedial in nature and the powers hereby granted shall be liberally construed. Nothing in RCW 39.28.010 through 39.28.030 shall be construed to authorize the issuance of bonds for any purpose by any municipality not authorized to issue bonds for such purpose under any other law heretofore or hereafter enacted, nor to dispense with the approval by a state department, board, officer or commission of a public works project where such approval is necessary under provisions of existing law: PROVIDED, That any port district which is now indebted in an amount equal to or in excess of the indebtedness which may be contracted without a vote of the electors of the district is hereby authorized, for the purposes of RCW 39.28.010 through 39.28.030, through its governing body, to contract a further indebtedness and borrow money for port purposes and issue general bonds therefor, as in RCW 39.28.010 through 39.28.030 provided, in an additional amount not exceeding (~~three-fourths~~) three-sixteenths of one percent of the (~~assessed~~) value of the taxable property in the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, without the assent of the voters of the district: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That such additional indebtedness together with the existing indebtedness of such port district shall not exceed the total indebtedness permitted to be incurred by such port district under existing laws.

Sec. 26. Section 1, chapter 158, Laws of 1961 as amended by section 1, chapter 92, Laws of 1963 and RCW 39.30.010 are each amended to read as follows:

Any city or town or metropolitan park district or county or library district may execute an executory conditional sales contract with a county or counties, the state or any of its political subdivisions, the government of the United States, or any private party for the purchase of any real or personal property, or property rights in connection with the exercise of any powers or duties which they now or hereafter are authorized to exercise, if the entire amount of the purchase price specified in such contract does not result in a total

indebtedness in excess of ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such city or town or metropolitan park district or county or library district: PROVIDED, That if such a proposed contract would result in a total indebtedness in excess of ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property of such city or town or metropolitan park district or county or library district, as the case may be, a proposition in regard to whether or not such a contract may be executed shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are submitted to the voters: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any city or town or metropolitan park district or county or library district may jointly execute contracts authorized by this section, if the entire amount of the purchase price does not result in a joint total indebtedness in excess of ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such city or town or metropolitan park district or county or library district. The term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 27. Section 1, chapter 143, Laws of 1917 as last amended by section 3, chapter 142, Laws of 1969 and RCW 39.36.020 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by law or in subsections (2), (3) and (4) of this section, no taxing district shall for any purpose become indebted in any manner to an amount exceeding ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such taxing district ~~((to-be-ascertained-as-set-forth-in-this-subsection-(17)))~~ without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election to be held for that purpose, nor in cases requiring such assent shall the total indebtedness incurred at any time exceed ~~((five))~~ one and one-fourth percent on the value of the taxable property therein ~~((as-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for-state-and-county-purposes-previous-to-the-incur-~~

~~ring-of-such-indebtedness-except-that-in-incorporated-cities-the-assessment-shall-be-taken-from-the-last-assessment-for-city-purposes).~~

(2) Counties, cities and towns are limited to an indebtedness amount not exceeding three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such counties, cities or towns without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election held for that purpose. In cases requiring such assent counties, cities and towns are limited to a total indebtedness of two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property therein.

(3) School districts and public hospital districts are limited to an indebtedness amount not exceeding three-eighths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such district without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election held for that purpose. In cases requiring such assent school districts and public hospital districts are limited to a total indebtedness of two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property therein.

~~((2))~~ (4) No part of the indebtedness allowed in this chapter shall be incurred for any purpose other than strictly county, city, town, school district, township, port district, metropolitan park district, or other municipal purposes: PROVIDED, That a city or town, with such assent, may become indebted to a larger amount, but not exceeding ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent additional, determined as herein provided, for supplying such city or town with water, artificial light, and sewers, when the works for supplying such water, light, and sewers shall be owned and controlled by the city or town: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any school district may become indebted to a larger amount but not exceeding ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent additional for capital outlays.

~~((3))~~ (5) Such indebtedness may be authorized in any total amount in one or more propositions and the amount of such authorization may exceed the amount of indebtedness which could then lawfully be incurred. Such indebtedness may be incurred in one or more series

of bonds from time to time out of such authorization but at no time shall the total general indebtedness of any taxing district exceed the above limitation.

The term "value of the taxable property" as used in this section shall have the meaning set forth in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 28. Section 31, chapter 181, Laws of 1961 and RCW 47.57-.530 are each amended to read as follows:

For the purpose of providing financial assistance to a toll facility as requested by a toll bridge authority resolution, the district may authorize and issue general obligation bonds not to exceed an amount equal to ~~((two))~~ one-half of one percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property with*[within] the district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act. Issuance of such bonds shall be authorized at an election which shall provide for the payment of the principal and interest of such bonds by annual levies in excess of the forty mill tax limitation provided by law. The proposition to issue any such bonds and to exceed the tax limitation must receive the affirmative vote of a three-fifths majority of those voting on the proposition and the total number of persons voting on the proposition shall constitute not less than forty percent of the total number of votes cast in the area of the district at the last preceding general election.

Sec. 29. Section 1, chapter 21, Laws of 1965 and RCW 52.08-.080 are each amended to read as follows:

Any fire protection district may execute an executory conditional sales contract with any other municipal corporation, the state or any of its political subdivisions, the government of the United States, or any private party for the purchase of any real or personal property, or property rights, in connection with the exercise of any powers or duties which they now or hereafter are authorized to exercise, if the entire amount of the purchase price specified in such contract does not result in a total indebtedness in excess of ~~((one~~

~~and-one-half~~) three-eighths of one percent of the (~~assessed-valuation~~) value of the taxable property in such fire protection district: PROVIDED, That if such a proposed contract would result in a total indebtedness in excess of (~~one-and-one-half~~) three-eighths of one percent of the (~~assessed-valuation~~) value of the taxable property of such fire protection district, as the case may be, a proposition in regard to whether or not such a contract may be executed shall be submitted to the voters for approval or rejection in the same manner that bond issues for capital purposes are submitted to the voters: PROVIDED FURTHER, That any fire protection district may jointly execute contracts authorized by this section.

The term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 30. Section 3, chapter 24, Laws of 1951 2nd ex. sess. as amended by section 4, chapter 176, Laws of 1953 and RCW 52.16.080 are each amended to read as follows:

Fire protection districts are hereby authorized to incur general indebtedness for capital purposes which shall include replacements of equipment which may be damaged or lost and for the purpose of refunding outstanding coupon warrants issued for capital purposes only, not to exceed an amount, together with any outstanding general obligation indebtedness, equal to (~~three~~) three-fourths of one percent of the (~~assessed-valuation~~) value of the taxable property within such district, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, and to issue general obligation bonds evidencing such indebtedness on the terms and provisions hereinafter set forth, the principal and interest thereof to be payable from annual tax levies to be made in excess of the forty mill tax limitation.

Sec. 31. Section 4, chapter 65, Laws of 1955 and RCW 53.08-.030 are each amended to read as follows:

A district may apply to the United States for permission to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones within the dis-

trict: PROVIDED, That when the money so raised is to be used exclusively for the purpose of acquiring land for sites and constructing warehouses, storage plants, and other facilities to be constructed within the zone for use in the operation and maintenance of the zones, the district may contract indebtedness and issue general bonds therefor in an amount, in addition to the ~~((three))~~ three-fourths of one percent hereinafter fixed, of ~~((two))~~ one percent of the value of the taxable property in the district ~~((to-be-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for-state-and-county-purposes))~~, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, such additional indebtedness only to be incurred with the assent of three-fifths of the voters of the district voting thereon.

Sec. 32. Section 12, chapter 65, Laws of 1955 as last amended by section 1, chapter 54, Laws of 1965 ex. sess. and RCW 53.36.030 are each amended to read as follows:

A district may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an amount, together with any existing indebtedness of the district not authorized by the voters, of one-fourth of one percent of the ~~((assessed))~~ value of the taxable property in the district ~~((,to-be-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for-state-and-county-purposes-previous-to-incurring-the-indebtedness))~~; and, with the assent of three-fifths of the voters voting thereon at a general or special port election called for that purpose, may contract indebtedness or borrow money for district purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor provided the total indebtedness of the district at any such time shall not exceed ~~((three))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the ~~((assessed-valuation))~~ value of the taxable property in the district ~~((to-be-ascertained-as-hereinabove-provided))~~: PROVIDED FURTHER, That port districts having less than ~~((fifty))~~ two hundred million dollars ~~((of-assessed-valuation))~~ in value of taxable property and operating a municipal airport may at any time contract indebtedness or borrow money for airport capital improvement purposes

and may issue general obligation bonds therefor not exceeding an additional ~~((one-half))~~ one-eighth of one percent of the ~~((assessed))~~ value of the taxable property in the district without authorization by the voters ~~((to-be-ascertained-as-hereinabove-provided))~~; and, with the assent of three-fifths of the voters voting thereon at a general or special port election called for that purpose, may contract indebtedness or borrow money for airport capital improvement purposes and may issue general obligation bonds therefor for an additional ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-eighths of one percent provided the total indebtedness of the district for all port purposes at any such time shall not exceed ~~((five))~~ one and one-fourth percent of the ~~((assessed))~~ value of the taxable property in the district ~~((to-be-ascertained-as-hereinabove-provided))~~. Any district may issue general district bonds evidencing any indebtedness, payable at any time not exceeding fifty years from the date of the bonds.

The term "value of the taxable property" shall have the meaning set forth in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 33. Section 7, chapter 1, Laws of 1931 as amended by section 14, chapter 232, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 54.24.018 are each amended to read as follows:

Whenever the commission shall deem it advisable that the public utility district purchase, purchase and condemn, acquire, or construct any such public utility, or make any additions or betterments thereto, or extensions thereof, the commission shall provide therefor by resolution, which shall specify and adopt the system or plan proposed, and declare the estimated cost thereof, as near as may be, and specify whether general or utility indebtedness is to be incurred, the amount of such indebtedness, the amount of interest and the time in which all general bonds (if any) shall be paid, not to exceed thirty years. In the event the proposed general indebtedness to be incurred will bring the indebtedness of the public utility district to an amount exceeding ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property of the public utility, dis-

trict, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, the proposition of incurring such indebtedness and the proposed plan or system shall be submitted to the qualified electors of said public utility district for their assent at the next general election held in such public utility district.

Whenever the commission (or a majority of the qualified voters of such public utility district, voting at said election, when it is necessary to submit the same to said voters) shall have adopted a system or plan for any such public utility, as aforesaid, and shall have authorized indebtedness therefor by a three-fifths vote of the qualified voters of such district, voting at said election, general or public utility bonds may be used as hereinafter provided. Said general bonds shall be serial in form and maturity and numbered from one upwards consecutively. The various annual maturities shall commence not later than the tenth year after the date of issue of such bonds. The resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds shall fix the rate of interest the bonds shall bear, said interest not to exceed eight percent, and the place and date of the payment of both principal and interest. The bonds shall be signed by the president of the commission, attested by the secretary of the commission, and the seal of the public utility district shall be affixed to each bond but not to the coupon: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That said coupon, in lieu of being so signed, may have printed thereon a facsimile of the signature of such officers. The principal and interest of such general bonds shall be paid from the revenue of such public utility district after deducting costs of maintenance, operation, and expenses of the public utility district, and any deficit in the payment of principal and interest of said general bonds shall be paid by levying each year a tax upon the taxable property within said district sufficient to pay said interest and principal of said bonds, which tax shall be due and collectible as any other tax. Said bonds shall be sold in such manner as the commission shall deem for the best interest of the dis-

district. All bonds and warrants issued under the authority of this act shall be legal securities, which may be used by any bank or trust company for deposit with the state treasurer, or any county or city treasurer, as security for deposits, in lieu of a surety bond, under any law relating to deposits of public moneys. When the commission shall not desire to incur a general indebtedness in the purchase, condemnation and purchase, acquisition, or construction of any such public utility, or addition or betterment thereto, or extension thereof, it shall have the power to create a special fund or funds for the sole purpose of defraying the cost of such public utility, or addition or betterment thereto, or extension thereof, into which special fund or funds it may obligate and bind the district to set aside and pay a fixed proportion of the gross revenues of such public utility, or any fixed amount out of, and not exceeding a fixed proportion of, such revenues, or a fixed amount without regard to any fixed proportion, and to issue and sell bonds or warrants bearing interest not exceeding eight percent per annum, payable semiannually, executed in such manner, and payable at such times and places as the commission shall determine, but such bonds or warrants and the interest thereon, shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds. In creating any such special fund or funds, the commission shall have due regard to the cost of operation and maintenance of the plant or system as constructed or added to, and to any proportion or part of the revenues previously pledged as a fund for the payment of bonds or warrants, and shall not set aside into such special fund or funds a greater amount or proportion of the revenues and proceeds than, in its judgment, will be available over and above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenues so previously pledged. Any such bonds or warrants, and interest thereon, issued against any such fund, as herein provided, shall be a valid claim of the holder thereof only as against the said special fund and its fixed proportion or amount of the revenue pledged to such fund, and shall not constitute an indebtedness of such dis-

trict within the meaning of the constitutional provisions and limitations. Each such bond or warrant shall state on its face that it is payable from a special fund, naming such fund and the resolution creating it. Said bonds and warrants shall be sold in such manner as the commission shall deem for the best interests of the district, and the commission may provide in any contract for the construction and acquisition of a proposed improvement or utility that payment therefor shall be made only in such bonds or warrants at the par value thereof. In all other respects, the issuance of such utility bonds or warrants and payment therefor shall be governed by the public utility laws for cities and towns.

Sec. 34. Section 42, chapter 210, Laws of 1941 as amended by section 15, chapter 140, Laws of 1945 and RCW 56.16.050 are each amended to read as follows:

Each and every sewer district hereafter to be organized pursuant to this title, or reorganized under this amendment [1945 c 140], may contract indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of RCW 56.16-.040, but not exceeding in amount, together with existing indebtedness (~~(five)~~) two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, (~~(to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county purposes)~~) as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, whenever three-fifths of the voters voting at said election in such sewer district assent thereto, at an election to be held in said sewer district in the manner provided by this title, which election may either be a special or a general election, and the board of sewer commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to submit the question of incurring such indebtedness, and issuing negotiable bonds of such sewer district to the qualified voters of such sewer district at any time they may so order. All bonds so to be issued shall be subject to the provisions regarding bonds as set out in RCW 56.16.040.

Sec. 35. Section 19, chapter 114, Laws of 1929 and RCW 57.20-.110 are each amended to read as follows:

Each and every water district that may hereafter be organized pursuant to this act is hereby authorized and empowered by and through its board of water commissioners to contract indebtedness for water purposes, and the maintenance thereof not exceeding one-half of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such water district ~~((to-be-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for-state-and-county-purposes-previous-to-and-the-incurring-of-such-indebtedness))~~, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 36. Section 20, chapter 114, Laws of 1929 and RCW 57.20-.120 are each amended to read as follows:

Each and every water district hereafter to be organized pursuant to this act, may contract indebtedness in excess of the amount named in RCW 57.20.110, but not exceeding in amount, together with existing indebtedness, ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property in said district, ((to-be-ascertained-as-provided-in-RCW-57.20.110)) as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, whenever three-fifths of the voters voting at said election in such water district assent thereto, at an election to be held in said water district in the manner provided by this act, which election may either be a special or a general election, and the board of water commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to submit the question of incurring such indebtedness, and issuing negotiable bonds of such water district to the qualified voters of such water district at any time they may so order: PROVIDED, That all bonds so to be issued shall be subject to the provisions regarding bonds as set out in RCW 57.20.010.

Sec. 37. Section 1, chapter 3, Laws of 1911 and RCW 88.32.230 are each amended to read as follows:

Whenever the board of county commissioners of any county of the first class of this state shall deem it for the interest of the county to engage in or to aid the United States of America, the state of Washington, or any adjoining county or any city of this state, or

any of them, in construction, enlargement, improvement, modification, repair or operation of any harbor, canal, waterway, river channel, slip, dock, wharf, or other public improvement, or any of the same, for the purposes of commerce, navigation, sanitation and drainage, or any thereof, or to acquire or operate wharf sites, dock sites, or other properties, rights or interests, or any thereof, necessary or proper to be acquired or operated for public enjoyment of any such public improvement, and to incur indebtedness to meet the cost thereof and expenses connected therewith, and issue bonds of the county for the payment of such indebtedness, or any thereof, such county is hereby authorized and empowered, by and through its county commissioners, to engage in or aid in any such public work or works, operation or acquisition, as aforesaid, and to incur indebtedness for such purpose or purposes to an amount, which, together with the then existing indebtedness of such county, shall not exceed ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent of the ~~((taxable))~~ value of the taxable property in said county, ~~((as-shown-by-the-last-previous-assessment-roll-thereof-for-state-and-county-purposes))~~ as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, and to issue the negotiable bonds of the county for all or any of such indebtedness and for the payment thereof, in the manner and form and as provided in sections 1846 to 1851, inclusive, of Ballinger's Annotated Codes and Statutes of Washington, and other laws of this state which shall then be in force, and to make part or all of such payment in bonds or in moneys derived from sale or sales thereof, or partly in such bonds and partly in such money: PROVIDED, That said commissioners shall have first submitted the question of incurring such indebtedness to the voters of the county at a general or special election, and three-fifths of the voters voting upon the question shall have voted in favor of incurring the same.

Sec. 38. Section 134, chapter 254, Laws of 1927 and RCW 89-.30.400 are each amended to read as follows:

Reclamation districts created under the provisions of this

chapter are hereby authorized and empowered to contract indebtedness for district purposes in any manner, when they deem it advisable, not exceeding an amount, together with the existing indebtedness of such district, of ~~((one-and-one-half))~~ three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such district ~~((to-be-ascertained-by-the-last-assessment-for-state-and-county-purposes-previous-to-the-incurring-of-such-indebtedness))~~, as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

Sec. 39. Section 135, chapter 254, Laws of 1927 and RCW 89-.30.403 are each amended to read as follows:

Such reclamation districts may contract indebtedness for strictly district purposes in excess of the amount specified in the preceding section, but not exceeding in amount, together with existing indebtedness, ~~((five))~~ two and one-half percent of the value of the taxable property, ~~((to-be-ascertained-as-in-the-last-preceding-section))~~ as the term "value of the taxable property" is defined in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act, whenever three-fifths of the voters therein voting at an election held for that purpose assent thereto.

Sec. 40. Section 16, chapter 26, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 8, chapter 164, Laws of 1967 and RCW 86.05.920 are each amended to read as follows:

Sections 1 through 79, chapter 160, Laws of 1935, section 1, chapter 82, Laws of 1949, section 1, chapter 20, Laws of 1953 and RCW 86.05.010 through 86.05.910 are each repealed: PROVIDED, That districts heretofore established pursuant to said laws may continue to be operated and maintained as provided therein (except that the tort liability immunity provided for in section 32, chapter 160, Laws of 1935 and RCW 86.05.320 shall no longer apply); or may take such action as may be required to conform to the provisions of chapter 72, Laws of 1937 and chapter 86.09 RCW regulating the maintenance and operation of flood control districts to the same extent and to the same effect as if originally organized under said act: PROVIDED

FURTHER, That the organization of such districts and the validation of indebtedness heretofore incurred and the limitations upon indebtedness incurred after the effective date of this 1970 amendatory act shall be governed as follows:

(1) Each and all of the flood control districts heretofore organized and established under sections 1 through 79, chapter 160, Laws of 1935, section 1, chapter 82, Laws of 1949, section 1, chapter 20, Laws of 1953 and RCW 86.05.010 through 86.05.910 are hereby validated and declared to be duly existing flood control districts having their respective boundaries as set forth in their organization proceedings as shown by the files in the offices of the auditors of each of the counties affected;

(2) All debts, contracts, and obligations heretofore made by or in favor of, and all bonds or other obligations heretofore executed in connection with or in pursuance of attempted organization, and all other things and proceedings heretofore done or taken by any flood control district heretofore established, operated and maintained under sections 1 through 79, chapter 160, Laws of 1935, section 1, chapter 82, Laws of 1949, section 1, chapter 20, Laws of 1953 and RCW 86.05.010 through 86.05.910 are hereby declared legal and valid and of full force and effect until such are fully satisfied and/or discharged.

(3) The limitation upon indebtedness prescribed in repealed section RCW 86.05.380 to an amount not exceeding one and one-half percent of the taxable property in such district without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein and three percent of such property with such assent shall henceforth be to an amount not exceeding three-fourths of one percent of the value of the taxable property in such district without the assent of three-fifths of the voters therein and one and one-half percent of such property with such assent. The limitation upon indebtedness referred to in repealed section RCW 86.05.720 of one and one-half percent of the taxable property in such district shall henceforth be three-fourths of one percent of the

value of the taxable property in such district. The term "value of the taxable property" as used in this paragraph shall have the meaning set forth in section 1 of this 1970 amendatory act.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 41. If any provision of this 1970 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this 1970 amendatory act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 42. The effective date of this 1970 amendatory act is November 1, 1970.

Passed the Senate February 9, 1970

Passed the House February 5, 1970

Approved by the Governor February 23, 1970

Filed in Office of Secretary of State February 24, 1970

CHAPTER 43

[Engrossed Senate Bill No. 45]

PUBLIC OFFICIALS, SALARIES--

STATE COMMITTEE ON SALARIES

AN ACT Relating to salaries of certain public officials; amending section 43.03.028, chapter 8, Laws of 1965 as amended by section 1, chapter 19, Laws of 1967 and RCW 43.03.028; amending section 43.03.040, chapter 8, Laws of 1965 and RCW 43.03.040; adding new sections to chapter 8, Laws of 1965 and to chapter 43.03 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state to base the salaries of public officials on realistic standards in order that such officials may be paid according to the true value of their services and the best qualified citizens may be attracted to public service. It is the purpose of this act to effectuate this policy by utilizing the expert knowledge of citizens having access to pertinent facts concerning proper salaries for public officials, thus removing and dispelling any thought of political consideration in fixing the appropriateness of the amount of such salaries.