

provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Sections 1, 3, 4, and 5 of this 1973 amendatory act are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, the support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 19, 1973.

Passed the Senate February 27, 1973.

Approved by the Governor March 6, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 7, 1973.

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CHAPTER 47

[Senate Bill No. 2331]

JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICTS--DETERMINATION

AN ACT Relating to joint school districts; amending section 28A.57.230, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.230; amending section 28A.57.240, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 131, chapter 176, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.240; amending section 28A.57.250, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.250; amending section 28A.57.255, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 133, chapter 176, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.255; and amending section 28A.57.260, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as last amended by section 3, chapter 53, Laws of 1971 and RCW 28A.57.260.

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

Section 1. Section 28A.57.230, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.230 are each amended to read as follows:

Any school district composed of territory lying in more than one county shall be known as a joint school district, and shall be designated by ((a separate)) number ((for each county in which any part of its territory may lie)) in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated under RCW 28A.04.130.

Sec. 2. Section 28A.57.240, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 131, chapter 176, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.240 are each amended to read as follows:

The duties in this chapter imposed upon and required to be performed by a county committee and by an intermediate school district superintendent in connection with a change in the organization and extent of school districts and/or with the adjustment of the assets and liabilities of school districts and with

all matters related to such change or adjustment whenever territory lying in a single county is involved shall be performed jointly by the county committees and by the superintendents of the several intermediate school districts as required whenever territory lying in more than one county or intermediate school district is involved: PROVIDED, That a county committee may designate three of its members, or two of its members and the intermediate school district superintendent, as a subcommittee to serve in lieu of the whole committee, but action by a subcommittee shall not be binding unless approved by the whole committee of the county. Proposals for changes in the organization and extent of school districts and proposed terms of adjustment of assets and liabilities thus prepared and approved shall be submitted to the state board (~~{1}~~) by the county committee of the county in which is (~~situated the high school of the proposed new district or of the established district proposed to be enlarged;~~ or {2} in case no high school district is involved in the proposed change; by the county committee of the county in which the schoolhouse of the district is situated; or {3} if there be no schoolhouse in the district or more than one schoolhouse; by the county committee of the county in which is located the part of the district having the largest number of children of school age residing therein) located the part of the proposed or enlarged district having the largest number of common school pupils residing therein.

Sec. 3. Section 28A.57.250, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.250 are each amended to read as follows:

For all purposes essential to the maintenance, operation, and administration of the schools of a district, including the apportionment of current state and county school funds, ((a joint school district shall be considered as belonging to the county in which the high school of said district or the county in which the high school with the largest enrollment at the time of its establishment, is situated; or in case no high school is operated by the district; to the county in which is situated the schoolhouse of the district or the school with the largest attendance; if there be more than one schoolhouse; if there is no schoolhouse in the joint district; said district shall then be considered as belonging to the county in which is located that part of the district having the largest number of children of school age residing therein)) the county in which a joint school district shall be considered as belonging shall be as designated by the state board of education. Prior to making such designation, the state board of education shall hold at least one public hearing on the matter, at which time the recommendation of the joint school district shall be presented and, in addition to such recommendation, the state board shall consider the following prior to its designation:

(1) Service needs of such district;

(2) Availability of services;

(3) Geographic location of district and servicing agencies;

and

(4) Relationship to contiguous school districts.

Sec. 4. Section 28A.57.255, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as amended by section 133, chapter 176, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and RCW 28A.57.255 are each amended to read as follows:

The registered voters residing within a joint school district shall be entitled to vote on the office of school director of their district and on the office of their intermediate school district board ((of education of the county to which the district belongs, even though they reside outside the county, or intermediate school district)) member.

Jurisdiction of any such election shall rest with the county auditor of the county administering such joint district as provided in RCW 28A.57.250.

At each general election, or upon approval of a request for a special election as provided for in RCW 29.13.020, such county auditor shall:

(1) See that there shall be at least one polling place in each county;

(2) At least twenty days prior to the elections concerned, certify in writing to the superintendent of the school district the number and location of the polling places established by ((him)) such auditor for such regular or special elections; and

(3) Do all things otherwise required by law for the conduct of such election.

It is the intention of this section that the qualified electors of a joint school district shall not be forced to go to a different polling place on the same day when other elections are being held to vote for school directors of their district and members of the intermediate school district board of education concerned with their school district.

Sec. 5. Section 28A.57.260, chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. as last amended by section 3, chapter 53, Laws of 1971 and RCW 28A.57.260 are each amended to read as follows:

((Every director or superintendent of a joint school district, on assuming the duties of office, shall file a certificate of election or appointment and a certified attestation of such person's signature with the intermediate school district superintendent to which the district belongs, which signature shall be placed on file with the appropriate county auditor by the said superintendent.)) A vacancy in the office of director of a joint district shall be filled in the manner provided by RCW 28A.57.326 for filling vacancies, such

appointment to be valid only until a director is elected and qualified to fill such vacancy at the next regular district election.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. If any provision of this 1973 amendatory act, or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act, or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

Passed the Senate February 5, 1973.

Passed the House February 27, 1973.

Approved by the Governor March 7, 1973.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 7, 1973.

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CHAPTER 48

[Senate Bill No. 2592]

OPTOMETRISTS--DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

AN ACT Relating to optometrists; and adding new sections to chapter 18.53 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

The legislature finds and declares that the costs of health care to the people are rising disproportionately to other costs and that there is a paramount concern that the right of the people to obtain access to health care in all its facets is being impaired thereby. For this reason, the reliance on the mechanism of insurance, whether profit or nonprofit, is the only effective manner in which the large majority of the people can attain access to quality health care, and it is therefore declared to be in the public interest that health care insurance be regulated to assure that all the people have access to health care rendered by whatever means, and to the greatest extent possible. This 1973 act, prohibiting discrimination against the legally recognized and licensed profession of optometrists, is necessary in the interest of the public health, welfare and safety.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state and its political subdivisions shall accept the services of licensed optometrists for any service covered by their licenses with relation to any person receiving benefits, salaries, wages, or any other type of compensation from the state, its agencies or subdivisions.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. There is added to chapter 18.53 RCW a new section to read as follows: