

Partial  
invalidity.

impair or otherwise affect the validity of the act as a whole or any other part thereof. The rule of strict construction shall have no application to this act, but the same shall be liberally construed, in order to carry out the purposes and objects for which this act is intended. When this act comes in conflict with any provisions, limitation or restriction in any other law, this act shall govern and control.

Acts  
repealed.

SEC. 22. This act shall not be deemed or construed to repeal or affect any existing act, or any part thereof, relating to the construction, operation and maintenance of public hospitals, but shall be supplemental thereto and concurrent therewith.

Passed the House February 24, 1945.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 20, 1945.

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## CHAPTER 265.

[ H. B. 185. ]

### ELECTIONS—ABSENTEE VOTING—IRRIGATION DISTRICTS.

AN ACT to provide for a period of five years for absentee voting in the case of elections to authorize or ratify making of contracts pursuant to the provisions of section 12, page 678, Laws of 1889-90, as last amended by section 6, chapter 129, Laws of 1921 (section 7429, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 679-41), between the United States and any irrigation district comprising 200,000 acres or more, and the procedure with respect to such voting.

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

Absentee  
voting in  
irrigation  
districts.

SECTION 1. For a period ending five years from the effective date of this act, absentee voting shall be permitted, on the terms provided in this act, by any irrigation district of the state comprising two hundred thousand (200,000) acres or more of land in connection with any election that is required by law to

authorize or ratify the making of any contract with the United States pursuant to the provisions of section 12, page 678, Laws of 1889-90, as last amended by section 6, chapter 129, Laws of 1921 (section 7429, Remington's Revised Statutes, also Pierce's Perpetual Code 679-41).

SEC. 2. Any qualified district elector who certifies as hereinafter provided that he cannot conveniently be present to cast his ballot at his proper election precinct on the day of any election coming within the terms of this act shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot in such election in the manner herein provided.

Absentee voters.

SEC. 3. The notice of election, in any case coming within this act, shall conform to the requirements for election notices provided by section 15, page 679, Laws of 1889-90, as last amended by section 9, chapter 138, Laws of 1923 (section 7432, Remington's Revised Statutes), and shall specify in addition that any qualified district elector who certifies that he cannot conveniently be present at his proper election precinct on the day of election may vote by absentee ballot, and that a ballot and form of certificate of qualifications will be furnished to him on written request being made of the district's secretary. The requisite ballot and a form of certificate of qualifications shall be furnished by the district's secretary to any person who prior to the date of election makes written request therefor, stating that he is a qualified district elector. Such ballot and form may be furnished also to qualified district electors in any way deemed to be convenient without regard to requests having been made therefor.

Notice of election.

Ballot furnished.

SEC. 4. (a) To be counted in a given election, an absentee ballot must conform to these requirements:

Requirements for counting.

(1) It must be sealed in an unmarked envelope and delivered to the district's principal office prior to the close of the polls on the day of that election; or

be sealed in an unmarked envelope and mailed to the district's secretary, postmarked not later than midnight of that election day and received by the secretary within ten days of that day.

Require-  
ments for  
counting  
ballots.

(2) The sealed envelope containing the ballot shall be accompanied by a certificate of qualifications stating, with respect to the voter, his name, age, citizenship, residence, that he holds title or evidence of title to lands within the district that have not been and will not be withdrawn from the district pursuant to the provisions of section 5, chapter 275, Laws of 1943 (section 7525-24, Remington's Revised Statutes), and that he cannot conveniently be present to cast his ballot at his proper election precinct on election day.

(3) The statements in the certificate of qualifications shall be certified as correct by the voter by the affixing of his signature thereto in the presence of a witness who is acquainted with the voter, and the voter shall enclose and seal his ballot in the unmarked envelope in the presence of this witness but without disclosing his vote. The witness, by affixing his signature to the certificate of qualifications, shall certify that he is acquainted with the voter, that in his presence the voter's signature was affixed and the ballot enclosed as required in this paragraph.

(b) The form of statement of qualifications and its certification shall be substantially as prescribed by the district's board of directors. This form may also provide that the voter shall describe all or some part of his lands within the district, but a voter otherwise qualified shall not be disqualified because of the absence or inaccuracy of the description so given. The regular form of irrigation district ballot shall be used by absentee voters.

SEC. 5. (a) Prior to the first notice of election, in the case of any election coming within this act,

the district's board of directors shall appoint one inspector and two judges to constitute the board of election for absentee votes. The board may appoint such clerks as it requires.

(b) Absentee ballots shall be accumulated and kept, unopened, by the district's secretary until the time in which such ballots may be received is closed. The secretary shall deliver them to such board of election as early as practicable in the following day. That board shall proceed at once to determine whether the voters submitting absentee ballots are qualified so to vote and to count and tally the votes of those so determined to be qualified. The board shall make, record and certify the result of its determinations and count substantially as provided in sections 7 and 8, page 675, Laws of 1889-90 (section 7424 and 7425, Remington's Revised Statutes); and promptly thereafter it shall deliver the ballots, certificates of qualifications, and its certificate to the district's secretary. The provisions of said section 8 (section 7425, Remington's Revised Statutes) with respect to recount shall govern also in the case of absentee ballots.

Canvass of  
ballots.

(c) On the completion of the canvass of the regular returns of the several election precincts as provided in section 9, page 676, Laws of 1889-90 (section 7426, Remington's Revised Statutes), the board of directors shall recess its meeting until it has received the returns from the board of election for absentee votes. It shall thereupon canvass the latter returns and declare the result thereof in substantially the same manner as provided for the returns of the votes cast in the regular manner. The statement of result required by the provisions of section 10, page 676, Laws of 1889-90, as last amended by section 4, chapter 165, Laws of 1913, (section 7427, Remington's Revised Statutes), however, shall be postponed until the results of the canvass of absentee ballots have been declared. Thereupon the statement of the

Statement  
of result of  
election.

result conforming as nearly as practicable to the requirements of said section 10, as amended, (section 7427, Remington's Revised Statutes), shall be made covering both regular and absentee votes.

Effective immediately.

SEC. 6. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and shall take effect immediately.

Passed the House February 24, 1945.

Passed the Senate March 7, 1945.

Approved by the Governor March 19, 1945.

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CHAPTER 266.

[ H. B. 343. ]

WASHINGTON TOLL BRIDGE AUTHORITY.

AN ACT relating to toll bridges; relating to the powers and duties of the Washington Toll Bridge Authority and certain officers; authorizing the purchase and operation of toll bridges, highway and ferry connections and approaches thereto; providing for issuance and sale of bonds and the conditions, terms and redemption thereof; providing for the deposit and use of certain funds and revenues; and amending chapter 173, Laws of 1937, by adding a new section thereto to be known as section 3A.

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

Amendment.

SECTION 1. Chapter 173, Laws of 1937, is amended by adding thereto a new section following section 3, to be designated section 3A, which shall read as follows:

Section 3A. (a) The Washington Toll Bridge Authority, whenever it is considered necessary or advantageous and practicable, is empowered to provide for the acquisition by purchase of, and to acquire by purchase, (1) any bridge or bridges or ferries which connect with or may be connected with the public highways of this state, and (2) together with approaches thereto.