

(2) The Washington state highway commission is authorized to include in each such continuing agreement a provision for the distribution to each such county funds to reimburse the county for fifty percent of the deficit incurred during each previous fiscal year in the operation and maintenance of the ferry system owned and operated by such county, commencing with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976: PROVIDED, That the total amount to be reimbursed to Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties collectively shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars in any biennium: PROVIDED FURTHER, That each county agreement shall contain a requirement that the county shall maintain tolls on its ferries at levels sufficient to produce aggregate annual revenues at least equal to the annual revenue of the county's ferry system in calendar year 1975.

(3) The annual fiscal year deficit, if any, shall be determined by Pierce, Skagit, and Whatcom counties subject to review and approval of the Washington state highway commission. The annual fiscal year deficit is defined as the total of operations and maintenance expenditures less the sum of ferry toll revenues and that portion of fuel tax revenue distributions which are attributable to the county ferry as determined by the Washington state highway commission. ~~((Payments))~~ Distribution of the amounts authorized by subsection (2) of this section by the state treasurer shall be ~~((made))~~ directed by the Washington state highway commission upon the receipt of properly executed vouchers from each county.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. If any provision of this 1977 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.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. This 1977 amendatory act is 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 on July 1, 1977.

Passed the House February 22, 1977.

Passed the Senate March 2, 1977.

Approved by the Governor March 25, 1977.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 25, 1977.

CHAPTER 52

[House Bill No. 585]

STATE COLLEGES—TREASURER, APPOINTMENT, BOND

AN ACT Relating to the state colleges; and adding a new section to chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and to chapter 28B.40 RCW.

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

NEW SECTION. Section 1. There is added to chapter 223, Laws of 1969 ex. sess. and to chapter 28B.40 RCW a new section to read as follows:

Each board of state college trustees shall appoint a treasurer who shall be the financial officer of the board and who shall hold office during the pleasure of the board. Each treasurer shall render a true and faithful account of all moneys received and paid out by him, and shall give bond for the faithful performance of the

duties of his office in such amount as the trustees require: PROVIDED, That the respective colleges shall pay the fees for any such bonds.

- Passed the House February 22, 1977.
- Passed the Senate March 3, 1977.
- Approved by the Governor March 25, 1977.
- Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 25, 1977.

CHAPTER 53
[House Bill No. 35]
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS—ELECTIONS

AN ACT Relating to elections; amending section 3, chapter 1, Laws of 1931 and RCW 54.08.010; amending section 4, chapter 1, Laws of 1931 as last amended by section 1, chapter 106, Laws of 1969 and RCW 54.12.010; and amending section 29.21.010, chapter 9, Laws of 1965 as last amended by section 1, chapter 120, Laws of 1975-'76 2nd ex. sess. and RCW 29.21.010.

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

Section 1. Section 3, chapter 1, Laws of 1931 and RCW 54.08.010 are each amended to read as follows:

At any general election held in an even-numbered year the ~~((board of))~~ county ~~((commissioners))~~ legislative authority of any county in this state may, or on petition of ten percent of the qualified electors of such county, based on the total vote cast in the last general county election, shall, by resolution, submit to the voters of such county the proposition of creating a public utility district which shall be co-extensive with the limits of such county as now or hereafter established. Such petition shall be filed with the county auditor, who shall within fifteen days examine the signatures thereof and certify to the sufficiency or insufficiency thereof, and for such purpose the county auditor shall have access to all registration books in the possession of election officers within such county. If such petition be found to be insufficient, it shall be returned to the persons filing the same, who may amend or add names thereto for ten days, when the same shall be returned to the county auditor, who shall have an additional fifteen days to examine the same and attach his certificate thereto. No person having signed such petition shall be allowed to withdraw his name therefrom after the filing of the same with the county auditor. Whenever such petition shall be certified to as sufficient, the county auditor shall forthwith transmit the same, together with his certificate of sufficiency attached thereto, to the ~~((board of))~~ county ~~((commissioners, who))~~ legislative authority, which shall thereupon immediately transmit such proposition to the election board of such county, and it shall be the duty of such county election board to submit such proposition to the voters at the next general election. The notice of the election shall state the boundaries of the proposed public utility district and the object of such election, and shall in other respects conform to the requirements of the general laws of the state of Washington, governing the time and manner of holding elections. In submitting the said question to the voters for their approval or rejection, the proposition shall be expressed on said ballot substantially in the following terms:

- Public Utility District No. YES
- Public Utility District No. NO