

Counties containing a population of 3,300 and less than 5,000 shall belong to and be known as counties of the eighth class; Eighth class.

Counties containing a population of less than 3,300 shall belong to and be known as counties of the ninth class. Ninth class.

Passed the Senate February 6, 1941.

Passed the House February 26, 1941.

Approved by the Governor March 3, 1941.

CHAPTER 27.

[S. B. 117.]

EXPENDITURES OF FOURTH CLASS CITIES AND TOWNS.

AN ACT relating to fourth class cities and towns; regulating expenditures thereof, and amending section 4, chapter 61, Laws of 1929 to provide for emergency expenditures.

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

SECTION 1. That section 4, chapter 61, Laws of 1929 (section 11232 of Remington's Revised Statutes, section 890-24 Pierce's Code) be amended to read as follows: Amendment.

Section 4. It shall be unlawful for any city or town council, or any public officer or employee of any city of the fourth class, or town, except as hereinafter provided, to contract any indebtedness or incur any liability in behalf of their or his city or town during any current fiscal year more than two per cent in excess of the revenues provided for such year at the public hearing held as required by the preceding section unless authorized by a majority vote of the electors of the city or town, at a general or special election, and any indebtedness contracted or liability incurred in violation hereof shall be void, Limit of expenditures.

Not to
change debt
limits.

but nothing herein contained shall be held to modify or change the limitations prescribed by any law limiting the debts of any such city or town to an amount based on a percentage of the assessed valuation thereof.

May adopt
ordinance
declaring
emergency.

Unanimous
vote of the
council.

Taxpayer
may be
heard.

Emergency
defined.

When a public emergency other than those specifically described hereinafter and which could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of making the estimate required in section 1 hereof (section 11229, Remington's Revised Statutes; section 890-21 Pierce's Code), shall require the expenditure of money not provided for in the estimate, the city or town council shall, before it may make any expenditure therefor, in excess of the two per cent hereinabove provided for, adopt an ordinance stating the facts constituting the emergency and the estimated amount of money required to meet it and declaring that an emergency exists: *Provided*, That such ordinance shall not be voted on until one week shall have elapsed after its introduction and that it shall require the unanimous vote of the members of the council present and the approval of the mayor: *Provided, further*, That any taxpayer may appear at such meeting for passing on such ordinance and be heard for or against the adoption thereof. Upon the happening of any emergency caused by fire, flood, explosion, storm, earthquake, epidemic, riot or insurrection, or for the immediate preservation of order or public health, or for the restoration to a condition of usefulness of any public property the usefulness of which has been destroyed by accident, or for the relief of a stricken community overtaken by calamity, or in settlement of approved claims for personal injuries or property damages, exclusive of claims arising from the operation of any public utility owned by the city or town, or to meet mandatory expenditures required by laws enacted since the last estimate was adopted, the city or town council

may, upon the adoption by the unanimous vote of the members present of an ordinance stating the facts constituting the emergency and the estimated amount required to meet it, make the expenditures therefor without further notice or hearing. All emergency expenditures shall be paid for by the issuance of emergency warrants. Emergency warrants shall be paid from any moneys on hand in the city or town treasury in the fund properly chargeable with such expenditure, and the city or town treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to pay such warrants out of any such moneys. If at any time there shall be insufficient money on hand to pay any emergency warrant, such warrant shall be registered, bear interest and be called in the same manner as other city or town warrants. The city or town council shall include in the next succeeding annual estimate the total amount of emergency warrants issued during the preceding fiscal year and shall include in their tax levies a levy sufficient to pay any of said emergency warrants remaining unpaid and to reimburse any fund or funds out of which the same may have been paid.

May make expenditures for emergencies.

Emergency warrants.

Warrants to be registered.

To levy taxes to pay emergency warrants.

Passed the Senate February 4, 1941.

Passed the House February 26, 1941.

Approved by the Governor March 3, 1941.