(EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, 1933)

House Bill No. 107

(By Mr. Smith, of Whish)

Passed June 3 1933
Effect Passage In Effect

.Takes effect. CORRECTLY ENROLLED Originated in the.

ENROLLED BILL

(H. B. No. 107)

[Passed June 3, 1933; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT relating to public lands; to create a public land corporation of West Virginia with the right to hold title to all public
lands; to designate such lands for public purposes and rehabilitate and reforest the same; creating a fund for the purpose of lands; regulating the use of lands so purchased;
providing for securing loans from the federal government; and
granting power to obtain lands by gift or otherwise.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Section 1. There shall be a public land corporation to be 2 known as the "Public Land Corporation of West Virginia" 3 which shall be a corporation and as such may sue and be sued, 4 contract and be contracted with, may plead and be impleaded 5 and have and use a common seal. The corporation shall consist 6 of the governor as chairman, the commissioner of agriculture

Chairman House Committee.

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7 as secretary, the auditor as state commissioner of forfeited lands,

8 the attorney-general, and the director of the engineering experi-

9 ment station at West Virginia university. They shall receive

10 no additional compensation as members of the corporation.

Sec. 2. The corporation shall be vested with the title of the

2 state in public lands, the title to which now is or may hereafter

3 become absolutely vested in the state of West Virginia by reason

4 of any law governing the title of lands within the state.

Sec. 3. The corporation may acquire from individuals or the

2 state commissioner of forfeited lands by purchase, lease or

3 agreement any lands that may be necessary for the public use.

Sec. 4. The corporation shall likewise have the authority to ac-

2 quire by purchase, condemnation, lease or agreement, or ex-

3 change and to receive by gifts or devise lands, rights of way or

4 easements, waters and minerals suitable for any public purpose.

Sec. 5. For the purpose of consolidating lands under either

2 state or federal administration, the corporation may sell, pur-

3 chase, or exchange lands or stumpage.

Sec. 6. All income received from the use and development of

2 public lands shall be used solely for the purpose of the liquida-

3 tion of obligations incurred for the acquisition, development and



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- 4 administration of such lands, until all indebtedness or other
- 5 obligations have been discharged. Funds shall then be paid into
- 6 the general school funds.

Sec. 7. The corporation may in the name of the public land

- 2 corporation of West Virginia negotiate loans from the govern-
- 3 ment of the United States, or any proper agency thereof, for the
- 4 purchase as provided by law of such lands as may be necessary
- 5 for the public use and the acquisition of which has been au-
- 6 thorized by law.

Sec. 8. The corporation shall have the authority to designate

- 2 lands to which it has title for development and administration
- 3 for the public use including forestation, stock grazing, agricul-
- 4 tural rehabilitation and homesteading and may contract or lease
- 5 for the proper development of oil, gas, mineral and water rights.
- 6 within or upon the lands or property under its control. It shall
- 7 convey, assign, or allot lands to the title or custody of proper
- 8 departments or other agencies of state government for admin-
- 9 istration and control within the functions of such departments
- 10 or other agencies as provided by law. The corporation shall
- 11 make proper lands available for the purpose of cooperating with

12 the government of the United States in the relief of unemploy-

13 ment and hardship.

Sec. 9. The corporation shall report biennially recommenda-

2 tions to the legislature concerning any and all public lands.

Sec. 10. Should any part of this act be, by judicial decision,

- 2 held to be unconstitutional such decision shall not invalidate any
- 3 other provisions of the same.

Chairman House Committee.

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