WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1983

ENROLLED
SENATE BILL NO. 521

(BY MR. MILLION)

PASSED March 11, 1983
In Effect Passage
ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 521
(By Mr. Williams)

[Passed March 11, 1983; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section three, article thirteen-a, chapter sixteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to public service districts and allowing each city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation having a population over three thousand to appoint one person to the public service board of its district.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section three, article thirteen-a, chapter sixteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 13A. PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICTS FOR WATER, SEWERAGE AND GAS SERVICES.

§16-13A-3. District to be a public corporation and political subdivision; powers thereof; public service boards.

1. From and after the date of the adoption of the order creating any public service district, it shall thereafter be a public corporation and political subdivision of the state, but without any power to levy or collect ad valorem taxes. Each district may acquire, own and hold property, both real and personal, in its corporate name, and may sue, may be sued, may adopt an official seal and may enter into contracts necessary or incidental to its purposes, including contracts with any city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation located within or
without its boundaries for furnishing wholesale supply of water for the distribution system of the city, town or other municipal corporation, and contract for the operation, maintenance, servicing, repair and extension of any properties owned by it or for the operation and improvement or extension by the district of all or any part of the existing municipally owned public service properties of any city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation included within the district: Provided, That no contract shall extend beyond a maximum of forty years, but provisions may be included therein for a renewal or successive renewals thereof and shall conform to and comply with the rights of the holders of any outstanding bonds issued by the municipalities for the public service properties.

The powers of each public service district shall be vested in and exercised by a public service board consisting of not less than three members, who shall be persons residing within the district who have successfully completed a training program to be established and administered by the public service commission in conjunction with the department of natural resources and the department of health. The members shall be appointed in the following manner:

Each city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation having a population of more than three thousand but less than eighteen thousand shall be entitled to appoint one member of the board, and each such city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation having a population in excess of eighteen thousand shall be entitled to appoint one additional member of the board for each additional eighteen thousand population. The members of the board representing such cities, incorporated towns or other municipal corporations shall be residents thereof and shall be appointed by a resolution of the governing bodies thereof and upon the filing of a certified copy or copies of the resolution or resolutions in the office of the clerk of the county commission which entered the order creating the district, the persons so appointed shall thereby become members of the board.
without any further act or proceedings. If the number of members of the board so appointed by the governing bodies of cities, incorporated towns or other municipal corporations included in the district shall equal or exceed three, then no further members shall be appointed to the board and the members shall be and constitute the board of the district.

If no city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation having a population of more than three thousand is included within the district, then the county commission which entered the order creating the district shall appoint three members of the board, who are persons residing within the district, which three members shall become members of and constitute the board of the district without any further act or proceedings.

If the number of members of the board appointed by the governing bodies of cities, incorporated towns or other municipal corporations included within the district is less than three, then the county commission which entered the order creating the district shall appoint such additional member or members of the board, who are persons residing within the district, as is necessary to make the number of members of the board equal three, and the additional member or members shall thereupon become members of the board; and the member or members appointed by the governing bodies of the cities, incorporated towns or other municipal corporations included within the district and the additional member or members appointed by the county commission as aforesaid, shall be and constitute the board of the district. A person may serve as a member of the board in one or more public service districts.

The population of any city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation, for the purpose of determining the number of members of the board, if any, to be appointed by the governing body or bodies thereof, shall be conclusively considered to be the population stated for such city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation in the last official federal census.

The respective terms of office of the members of the
first board shall be fixed by the county commission and shall be as equally divided as may be, that is approximately one third of the members for a term of two years, a like number for a term of four, and the term of the remaining member or members for six years, from the first day of the month during which the appointments are made. The first members of the board appointed as aforesaid shall meet at the office of the clerk of the county commission which entered the order creating the district as soon as practicable after the appointments and shall qualify by taking an oath of office: Provided, That any member or members of the board may be removed from their respective office as provided in section three-a of this article.

Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term within thirty days, otherwise successor members of the board shall be appointed for terms of six years and the terms of office shall continue until successors have been appointed and qualified. All successor members shall be appointed in the same manner as the member succeeded was appointed.

The board shall organize within thirty days following the first appointments and annually thereafter at its first meeting after the first day of January of each year by selecting one of its members to serve as chairman and by appointing a secretary and a treasurer who need not be members of the board. The secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the board which shall be available for inspection as other public records. Duplicate records shall be filed with the county commission and shall include the minutes of all board meetings. The treasurer is lawful custodian of all funds of the public service district and shall pay same out on orders authorized or approved by the board. The secretary and treasurer shall perform other duties appertaining to the affairs of the district and shall receive salaries as shall be prescribed by the board. The treasurer shall furnish bond in an amount to be fixed by the board for the use and benefit of the district.

The members of the board, and the chairman, secretary
and treasurer thereof, shall make available to the county commission, at all times, all of its books and records pertaining to the district's operation, finances and affairs, for inspection and audit. The board shall meet at least monthly.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Donald Ameller
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 27 day of March, 1983.

Governor