

therefor * * * countersigned by said state fish and game warden. The said office force from and after February 1, 1911, shall consist of one book-keeper at a salary not exceeding twelve hundred dollars per year; one clerk at a salary not exceeding nine hundred dollars per year; and one stenographer at a salary not exceeding nine hundred dollars per year, and temporary services of help required from time to time to carry out the provisions of law. Such appointments to be made by state fish and game warden.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved July 12, 1911.

No. 1033, A.]

[Published July 13, 1911.

CHAPTER 656.

AN ACT to create sections 697—60 to 697—66, inclusive, of the statutes, authorizing counties to loan their credit to settlers by issuing special improvement bonds for the purpose of securing money to defray the expense of reclaiming cutover land, by removing stumps therefrom and making said bonds a special lien upon the lands so improved.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. There are added to the statutes seven new sections to read : Section 697—60. For the purpose of promoting the public welfare, by enabling settlers to reclaim cutover lands, the county board of any county may issue special improvement bonds for the purpose and in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

Section 697—61. When twenty-five or more settlers of any county, shall petition the county board setting forth that they are the owners of cutover land, describing the same, and that it would promote the public welfare to reclaim said lands by clearing the same of stumps, and that the cost thereof has been estimated by a competent person, naming him, and setting forth such estimate as to each governmental subdivision of forty acres, the county board may issue county, not less than four per cent per annum, non-taxable semi-interest payment coupon bonds, executed in behalf of the county by the chairman of the board and countersigned by the county clerk, payable principal and interest at the county treasurer's office, said bonds to be sold at not less than par, and not to nonresidents until residents of the county shall have had a fair opportunity, in the judgment of the county clerk, to purchase the same. Said bonds shall be payable at such time as the chairman of the county board and

the county clerk together shall determine, which shall not be less than five nor more than twenty years from the date of their issuance. The proceeds shall be paid into the county treasury, and shall be used in defraying the expense of clearing and reclaiming the cutover lands described in the petition, but the amount that may be paid to any owner of land from the proceeds of the sale of bonds shall not exceed the amount estimated in the petition as necessary to clear the land, and shall not in any case exceed the sum of twenty-five dollars per acre.

Section 697—62. The amount of such bonds shall not exceed the estimated costs of reclaiming said lands, as set forth in the petition, and in any case shall not exceed a sum equal to twenty-five dollars for each acre of said land. Such bonds shall not evidence any general county liability, but shall be a special tax lien prior to all other liens upon the lands described in the petition, forming the basis of their issuance, said lien to be limited as to each forty acre tract, to the amount estimated in the petition as necessary to reclaim the same.

Section 697—63. The county clerk shall, on or before the first of November in each year, certify to the clerk of the town in which each particular tract of land is located, the amount of money necessary to be assessed against each particular tract of land, to pay the bonds according to their tenor, and the town clerk each year shall make the proper extension of taxes upon the tax roll to raise the necessary money. Thereafter the special taxes as regards payment thereof shall be treated as any other taxes, and when collected shall be paid into the county treasury for use in discharging the bonds as the same fall due.

Section 697—64. Such land may be reclaimed and cleared of stumps under a contract made by the owner or owners thereof, which contract shall be approved by the chairman of the county board.

Section 697—65. When any particular tract of land shall have been cleared, a claim duly verified for the expense thereof, may be presented to the county board by the person claiming the same, and when allowed shall be paid from any money in the county treasury derived from the sale of the bonds hereinbefore mentioned.

Section 697—66. The collection of said bonds may be enforced by foreclosure in the manner mortgages on real estate are foreclosed, and in the manner and subject to the conditions prescribed for the foreclosure of bonds by section 925—197a.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

Approved July 12, 1911.