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CHAPTER 224

AN ACT to amend 41.15 (4), 41.18 (1) and 41.21 (1) (a) and (c) and to create 41.155 and 41.16 (2p) and (2q) of the statutes, relating to the creation of vocational and adult education districts on an area basis.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 41.15 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

41.15 (4) The local board of vocational and adult education shall elect from its membership, a chairman and a secretary and in the case of boards of vocational and adult education appointed for school districts

and area school districts, a treasurer; and with the co-operation of the state board of vocational and adult education, shall have general supervision of the instruction in the local schools of vocational and adult education.

SECTION 2. 41.155 of the statutes is created to read:

41.155 VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT. A vocational and adult education area school district may be established when comprised of an area of compact and contiguous territory in which the governing bodies of counties or municipalities have agreed to establish and maintain a single unit of vocational and adult education, supported by public funds levied in the area.

(1) A vocational and adult education area school district may be established with the approval of the state board of vocational and adult education and shall follow municipal or county lines. The action to create such a district may be initiated in one of the following manners:

(a) By action of a municipal or county board where only one unit is involved.

(b) By joint action of 2 or more municipal or county boards.

(c) By joint action of 2 or more such boards following a petition by 5 per cent of the qualified electors in each governmental unit to be included in the district.

(2) A vocational and adult education area school district shall possess an equalized valuation of not less than \$60,000,000.

(3) A vocational and adult education area school district shall have a population of not less than 20,000.

(4) The following governing bodies may establish vocational and adult education area school districts subject to approval by the state board of vocational and adult education and the criteria set up in the statutes. A majority vote in favor by each is required for approval.

(a) In the case of a district containing all of one county by a majority vote of the county board. If a municipality within the county has established a school of vocational and adult education, the supervisors from such municipality shall not vote in making this determination and a majority of those supervisors present who are eligible to vote is required for approval. If a municipality within the county has established a program of vocational and adult education the majority vote of the governing body of the municipality is required before the territory incorporated in the municipality is included in the vocational and adult education area school district.

(b) In the case of a district containing all of more than one county, by majority vote of each board. If a municipality within the area has established a program of vocational and adult education the majority vote of the governing body of the municipality is required before the territory incorporated in the municipality is included in the vocational and adult education area school district.

(c) In the case of a district containing more than one municipality including cities, villages or towns, but not composed exclusively of complete counties, by the governing body of each municipality.

(d) Such approval means that the governing bodies of such districts agree to the establishment of a single system of vocational and adult education within that area.

(5) (a) The boundary of a vocational and adult education area school district may not be altered until it has been in operation 2 full years.

(b) No change in district boundaries shall include less than a complete city, village or town.

(c) Territory annexed or otherwise attached to a city, village, town or county shall become a part of the same vocational school district as the unit to which attached or annexed.

(d) The municipal board may request that the state board detach the municipality from one district and attach it to another. If such transfer is approved by the governing body of both the vocational school districts involved, the state board shall approve it. If the governing body of either district disapproves the detachment or attachment, the state board shall determine whether or not to detach and attach on the merits of the case.

(e) All changes in boundary lines shall be made on July 1, and at least 2 years shall elapse between actions to change any identical boundary.

(f) A proposal to create a district may be initiated in the following manner. The municipal board of any municipality or a county board may initiate action by resolution calling a meeting of the several governing bodies interested in the proposed district to consider the matter. If a plan is agreed upon at such a meeting, each governing body shall adopt a resolution approving participation in the plan. The resolutions of the several governing bodies shall be submitted to the clerk of the unit participating with the largest equalized valuation who shall submit them to the state board of vocational and adult education for consideration and action.

(6) A vocational and adult education area school district shall be administered by a board composed of 9 citizens elected in the April election on a nonpartisan basis at large for terms of 6 years except as provided in par. (d).

(a) Of the members of the board, 3 shall at all times be employers with power to employ and discharge, 3 shall be employes who have no power of employment or discharge and are not foremen or superintendents and 3 shall be farmers who are engaged in the actual operation of a farm. In districts containing only cities and villages there shall be 3 citizens-at-large posts and no farmer posts.

(b) The ballot shall designate those who are seeking election as employes, employers, farmers and citizens-at-large.

(c) The ballot shall be prepared and the election supervised by the following officials:

1. In a district composed of 2 or more complete counties, by the county clerk of the county with the greatest equalized valuation for general property tax purposes.

2. In a district composed of more than one city, village or town or any combination thereof, by the clerk of the municipality with the greatest equalized valuation for general property taxing purposes.

(d) The clerk prior to the first election shall by lot designate the posts to be filled for 2, 4 and 6 years at the first election. Thereafter all shall be elected for 6 years.

(e) Vacancies shall be filled by the board until the next election with due regard to the requirement of the position. Vacancies shall be filled at the next spring election for the remainder of the term.

(f) All board members shall take office on July 1 and shall hold office until a successor has been selected and qualified. Board members shall receive no compensation but shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(g) Section 41.15 (5) to (11) and (13) and (14) shall apply to area districts.

(h) Whenever a municipality operating a school of vocational and adult education determines that the territory within their corporate limits shall be included in a vocational school district established under this section, all assets, liabilities, rights, duties, property and obligations of existing districts shall be transferred to the newly established district in accordance with s. 66.03. Existing buildings and equipment used by the schools of vocational and adult education may be transferred to the district or the board may enter an agreement for the use of such facilities.

SECTION 3. 41.16 (2p) and (2q) of the statutes are created to read:

41.16 (2p) The vocational and adult education area district board is authorized to levy on or before October 1 in any year a tax upon all the taxable property of the district for the purpose of operating and maintaining area schools of vocational and adult education. The amount of such tax shall not exceed in any one year, 2 mills on each dollar of equalized valuation.

(a) The secretary of the area district shall deliver to the clerk of each municipality in which any part of the district is located, a certified statement showing the amount of taxes voted and the amount of taxes to be collected in that year for the payment of any loan and the portion of such taxes to be assessed in that part of the area district within the municipality which proportion shall be ascertained from the full valuation certified to him by the department of taxation.

(b) Upon receipt of such report the clerk of each such municipality shall place the same on the tax roll to be collected as are other taxes, and such money when collected shall be paid to the treasurer of such district.

(2q) The vocational and adult education area district board may incur indebtedness for the acquisition of sites, buildings and equipment for the operation of a school and levy taxes for such capital outlay and interest.

SECTION 4. 41.18 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

41.18 (1) The schools of vocational and adult education shall be open to all residents of the municipalities *or districts* in which such schools are located, who are 14 years of age and who are not by law required to attend other schools, and to all persons over 14 years of age employed in said municipalities *or districts*, but who are residents of other municipalities *or districts* maintaining schools of vocational and adult education; provided, such nonresidents shall present the written approval of the local board of vocational and adult education of their home municipality. The schools of vocational and adult education shall be open to all persons 14 years of age or over who reside in other municipalities *or districts* having local boards of vocational and adult education but in which the specific courses desired by such persons are not given; provided, such courses are given in the municipality *or district* in which such persons elect to attend and the local board of such municipality *or district* agrees to admit them; provided further, that such nonresidents shall present the written approval of the local board of vocational and adult education of their home municipality. Any person over the age of 14 years who shall reside in any municipality not having a vocational and adult education school, and who is otherwise qualified to pursue the course of study, may with the approval of the board of vocational and adult education, be allowed to attend any school under its supervision. Nonresident pupils shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as resident pupils.

SECTION 5. 41.21 (1) (a) and (c) of the statutes are amended to read:

41.21 (1) (a) On the first day of July in each year the secretary of the local board of vocational and adult education * * * maintaining such a school or schools shall report to the state board of vocational and adult education the cost of maintaining the same; the character of the work done; the number, names, and qualifications of the teachers employed; and such other information as may be required by the said board.

(c) On receipt of such certificates the director of budget and accounts shall draw his several warrants accordingly, payable to the treasurers of the cities, towns, villages *and area school districts*, respectively.

Approved June 18, 1957.