

**CHAPTER 457, LAWS OF 1969**

AN ACT to create 59.967, 59.968 and 66.943 of the statutes, relating to establishing municipal or county transit commissions.

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

SECTION 1. 59.967 of the statutes is created to read:

59.967 COUNTY TRANSIT COMMISSION. (1) Any county in this state may enact an ordinance for the establishment, maintenance and operation of a comprehensive unified local transportation system, the major portion of which is or is to be located within or the major portion of the service of which is or is to be supplied to the inhabitants of such county, and which system is used or to be used chiefly for the transportation of persons.

(2) The transit commission shall be designated "Transit Commission" preceded by the name of the enacting county.

(3) In this section:

(a) "Transit commission" or "commission" means the local transit commission created hereunder.

(b) "Comprehensive unified local transportation system" means a transportation system comprised of motor bus lines and any other local public transportation facilities, the major portions of which are within the county.

(4) The transit commission shall consist of not less than 7 members to be appointed by the county board, one of whom shall be designated chairman, except that in any county having a county executive, he shall make said appointments.

(5) (a) The first members of the transit commission shall be appointed for staggered 3-year terms. The term of office of each member thereafter appointed shall be 3 years.

(b) No transit commissioner shall hold any other public office.

(c) No person holding stocks or bonds in any corporation subject to the jurisdiction of the transit commission, or who is in any other manner directly or indirectly pecuniarily interested in any such corporation, shall be a member of the nor employed by the transit commission.

(6) The transit commission may appoint a secretary and employ such accountants, engineers, experts, inspectors, clerks and other employes and fix their compensation, and purchase such furniture, stationery and other supplies and materials, as are reasonably necessary to enable it properly to perform its duties and exercise its powers.

(7) (a) The transit commission may adopt rules relative to the calling, holding and conduct of its meetings, the transaction of its business, the regulation and control of its agents and employes, the filing of complaints and petitions and the service of notices thereof and conduct hearings.

(b) For the purpose of receiving, considering and acting upon any complaints or applications which may be presented to it or for the purpose of conducting investigations or hearings on its own motion the transit commission shall hold regular meetings at least once a week except in the months of July and August in each year and special meetings on the call of the chairman or at the request of the county board.

(c) The transit commission may adopt a seal, of which judicial notice shall be taken in all courts of this state. Any process, writ, notice or other

instrument which the commission may be authorized by law to issue shall be deemed sufficient if signed by the secretary of the commission and authenticated by such seal. All acts, orders, decisions, rules and records of the commission, and all reports, schedules and documents filed with the commission may be proved in any court in this state by a copy thereof certified by the secretary under the seal of the commission.

(8) The jurisdiction, powers and duties of the transit commission shall extend to the comprehensive unified local transportation system for which the commission is established including any portion of such system extending into adjacent or suburban territory within this state lying outside of the county not more than 30 miles from the nearest point marking the corporate limits of the county.

(9) Initial acquisition of the properties for the establishment of and to comprise the comprehensive unified local transportation system shall be subject to s. 66.065 or ch. 197.

(10) Any county may by contract under s. 66.30 establish a joint municipal transit commission, in cooperation with any county, city or village.

(11) In lieu of providing transportation services, a county may contract with a private organization for such services.

SECTION 1m. 59.968 of the statutes is created to read:

59.968 PUBLIC TRANSIT IN COUNTIES. Any county board may:

(1) Purchase and lease buses to private transit companies operating within and outside the county.

(2) Apply for federal aids for purchase of such buses or other facilities deemed essential for operation.

(3) Make grants and provide subsidies to private transit companies operating bus lines principally within the county to stabilize, preserve or enhance levels of transit service to the public.

SECTION 2. 66.943 of the statutes is created to read:

66.943 CITY TRANSIT COMMISSION. (1) Any city in this state may enact an ordinance for the establishment, maintenance and operation of comprehensive unified local transportation system, the major portion of which is or is to be located within or the major portion of the service of which is or is to be supplied to the inhabitants of such city, and which system is used or to be used chiefly for the transportation of persons.

(2) The transit commission shall be designated "Transit Commission" preceded by the name of the enacting city.

(3) In this section:

(a) "Transit commission" or "commission" means the local transit commission created hereunder.

(b) "Comprehensive unified local transportation system" means a transportation system comprised of motor bus lines and any other local public transportation facilities, the major portions of which are within the city.

(4) The transit commission shall consist of not less than 3 members to be appointed by the mayor and approved by the council, one of whom shall be designated chairman.

(5) (a) The first members of the transit commission shall be appointed for staggered 3-year terms. The term of office of each member thereafter appointed shall be 3 years.

(b) No transit commissioner shall hold any other public office.

(c) No person holding stocks or bonds in any corporation subject to the jurisdiction of the transit commission, or who is in any other manner directly or indirectly pecuniarily interested in any such corporation, shall be a member of the nor employed by the transit commission.

(6) The transit commission may appoint a secretary and employ such accountants, engineers, experts, inspectors, clerks and other employes and fix their compensation, and purchase such furniture, stationery and other supplies and materials, as are reasonably necessary to enable it properly to perform its duties and exercise its powers.

(7) (a) The transit commission may adopt rules relative to the calling, holding and conduct of its meetings, the transaction of its business, the regulation and control of its agents and employes, the filing of complaints and petitions and the service of notices thereof and conduct hearings.

(b) For the purpose of receiving, considering and acting upon any complaints or applications which may be presented to it or for the purpose of conducting investigations or hearings on its own motion the transit commission shall hold regular meetings at least once a week except in the months of July and August in each year and special meetings on the call of the chairman or at the request of the city council.

(c) The transit commission may adopt a seal, of which judicial notice shall be taken in all courts of this state. Any process, writ, notice or other instrument which the commission may be authorized by law to issue shall be deemed sufficient if signed by the secretary of the commission and authenticated by such seal. All acts, orders, decisions, rules and records of the commission, and all reports, schedules and documents filed with the commission may be proved in any court in this state by a copy thereof certified by the secretary under the seal of the commission.

(8) The jurisdiction, powers and duties of the transit commission shall extend to the comprehensive unified local transportation system for which the commission is established including any portion of such system extending into adjacent or suburban territory within this state lying outside of the city not more than 30 miles from the nearest point marking the corporate limits of the city.

(9) Initial acquisition of the properties for the establishment of and to comprise the comprehensive unified local transportation system shall be subject to s. 66.065 or ch. 197.

(10) Any city or village may by contract under s. 66.30 establish a joint municipal transit commission with the powers and duties of city transit commissions under this section.

(11) In lieu of providing transportation services, a municipality may contract with a private organization for such services.

Approved February 16, 1970.

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