

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 275.121 is amended to read :

**275.121 Bonds of certain school districts, tax levy additional.** In the case of school districts having not more than 1,600 nor less than 1,500 inhabitants, *according to the last federal census*, bonds issued pursuant to Laws 1943, Chapter 526, may be paid by levies in excess of the limitations imposed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 275.12.

Approved April 13, 1955.

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CHAPTER 417—H. F. No. 1067

[Coded]

*An act relating to water conservation and marsh income production through encouraging the establishment of muskrat marshes, providing for the breeding and raising of muskrats thereon, and for the harvesting thereof.*

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

Section 1. [99.28] **Muskrat farms.** Subdivision 1. The owner of any lands within the state suitable for the breeding and propagation of muskrats shall have the right upon complying with the provisions of this act to establish, operate and maintain on said lands a muskrat farm, for the purpose of breeding, propagating, trapping and dealing in muskrats.

Subd. 2. Such owner desiring to establish, operate and maintain a muskrat farm, shall file with the commissioner of conservation a verified declaration describing the lands which such applicant desires to use for the purpose of breeding and propagating muskrats, and setting forth the title of the applicant and the number of acres embraced in the tract.

Subd. 3. Upon the filing of such declaration the commissioner of conservation shall forthwith investigate the same and may require the applicant to produce satisfactory evidence of the facts therein stated. If upon such examination it shall appear that the applicant is the owner of said lands, and the applicant intends in good faith to establish, operate and maintain a muskrat farm, and that the establishment of the proposed area as a muskrat farm is desirable in the furtherance of a sound program of conserving the natural resources

of the state, the commissioner of conservation shall issue a license to the applicant describing such lands, and certifying that the licensee is lawfully entitled to use the same for the breeding, propagating, trapping and dealing in of muskrats thereon.

Subd. 4. The licensee shall become the owner of all of the muskrats on said lands and of all of their offspring remaining thereon, and subject to the provisions of subdivision 11, to take and trap the same at any time or in any manner which he sees fit and deems to be to the best advantage of his business, and to sell and transport at any time said muskrats or the pelts taken from them. All such pelts so transported shall be tagged with a tag to be furnished by the commissioner of conservation to the licensee at cost. Such tags shall be numbered to correspond with the number of the license held by the licensee.

Subd. 5. The holder of any such license shall pay an annual license fee of \$2.50 for any such farm upon which muskrats are taken on said owner's premises.

Subd. 6. Within 30 days after the date of the issuance of any such license, the licensee shall erect posts or stakes at intervals of not more than 30 rods along the boundary of the land embraced in said license, wherever the same are not already inclosed, and shall post and maintain upon said posts, stakes or other inclosures at intervals of not more than four rods notices furnished by the commissioner of conservation proclaiming the establishment of a muskrat farm. For such notices the licensee shall pay to the commissioner of conservation the sum of 12 cents each.

Subd. 7. Such license shall be prima facie evidence in all courts and proceedings of the lawful right of the licensee therein named, his or its successors or assigns, for the term of the license, to establish and operate a muskrat farm upon said premises, and shall entitle the licensee therein named or his successors or assigns, to the exclusive right for and during said term to breed and propagate muskrats thereon, and to the exclusive and sole ownership of any property in all muskrats caught or taken therefrom. Such license shall expire on December 31 of each year, but may be renewed from year to year upon payment by the licensee of the annual license fee; at the discretion of the commissioner.

Subd. 8. Any person other than the licensee or his agents who shall hunt or trap muskrats upon any lands described in any such license, shall be liable to the licensee in the sum of \$25, in addition to all damage which he may cause

said farm or to the rats and property thereon, but all actions for such trespass shall be brought by such licensee.

Subd. 9. On or before the first day of March of each year, each such licensee shall make a report, verified by affidavit, to the commissioner of conservation covering the period from January 1 to December 31 of the previous year, upon blanks furnished by the commissioner of conservation stating the number of his license and the total number and value of muskrats killed, transported or sold from said muskrat farm, and such other information as the commissioner may require.

Subd. 10. Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect any public right of hunting, trapping, fishing or navigation except as herein expressly provided.

Subd. 11. Any person operating a muskrat farm under licenses granted by the provisions of this chapter, shall not trap any animals for pelting purposes except on a permit granted by and under the supervision of the commissioner of conservation; and all skins of such animals so taken during the closed season shall be distinctively tagged or marked by the commissioner of conservation. No muskrats on licensed farms shall be taken at any time by firearm or spear.

Subd. 12. Any person operating a muskrat farm who moves his posts or expands his farm without the consent of the commissioner, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Approved April 13, 1955.

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#### CHAPTER 418—H. F. No. 1290

*An act relating to state aid to school districts; amending Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 128.082, Subdivision 10.*

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1953, Section 128.082, Subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. When elementary or secondary pupils living on land owned by the University of Minnesota as a research center or as a housing project located outside a city of the first class attend school in a school district in which such research center or housing project is located, the state shall pay state aid to such school district at the same rate per pupil unit in average daily attendance exclusive of transportation as is paid