

CHAPTER 105.

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN
SCHOOL LANDS IN SAINT LOUIS COUNTY.

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

SECTION 1. Whenever the amount of five (5) dollars per acre for all the school lands sold by the State in section sixteen (16), township fifty (50), range fourteen (14) west, in the county of Saint Louis, shall have been paid into the State Treasury by the holders of the certificates thereof, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner of the State Land office to certify the same to the Governor of the State, who shall thereupon sign and cause to be issued, in accordance with law, patents of the lands to the holders of said certificates, the same as if the price for which said lands were originally sold for had been fully paid, and,

To be certified
by commis-
sioner.

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

Approved March 1, 1879.

CHAPTER 106.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

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

SECTION 1. That the City Council of any incorporated city, or Village Council of any incorporated village, shall have power to establish and maintain a public library and reading room, or either of them, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of such city or village, and may levy a tax, not to exceed one mill on the dollar annually, and in cities of over thirty thousand inhabitants, not to exceed one-half of one mill on the dollar annually, on all the taxable property in the city, such tax to be levied and collected in like manner, with other general taxes of said city or village and to be known as the "library fund."

Taxes may be
levied.

Directors to be appointed, how.

SEC. 2. When any city or village council shall have decided to establish and maintain a public library and reading room, or either of them, under this act, the mayor of such city or president of such village, shall, with the approval of the city or village council, proceed to appoint a board of nine directors for the same, chosen from the citizens at large, with reference to their fitness for such office, and not more than one member of the city or village council shall be at any time a member of said board.

Term of office.

SEC. 3. Said directors shall hold office: One-third for one year, one-third for two years, and one-third for three years from the first of May following their appointment, and at their first regular meeting shall cast lots for the respective terms, and annually thereafter the mayor of such city, or president of such village shall before the first day of May in each year, appoint as before, three directors to take the place of the retiring directors, who shall hold office for three years, and until their successors are appointed. Such mayor or president may by and with the consent of the council, remove any director for misconduct or neglect of duty.

Vacancies.

SEC. 4. Vacancies in the board of directors occasioned by removals, resignations, or otherwise, shall be reported to the city or village council, and be filled in like manner as original appointments, and no director shall receive compensation as such.

Shall adopt by-laws, &c.

SEC. 5. Said directors shall, immediately after appointment, meet and organize by the election of one of their number president, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. They shall make and adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for their own guidance and for the government of the library and reading room, or either of them, as may be expedient, not inconsistent with this act. They shall have the exclusive control of the expenditure of all moneys collected and placed to the credit of the library fund, and of the construction of any library building, and of the supervision, care and custody of the grounds, rooms or buildings constructed, leased or set apart for that purpose. Provided, that all moneys received for such library shall be deposited in the treasury of said city or village to the credit of other library fund, and shall be kept separate and apart from the money of said city or village, and shall be paid out only upon the properly authenticated vouchers of the library board. Said board shall have power to lease and appropriate rooms for the use of said library; shall have power to appoint a suitable librarian and necessary assistants, and fix their compensation, and shall also have power to remove such appointees; and shall in general carry out the spirit and intent of this act. Said board shall have power, when approved by such city or village council, to purchase ground and erect thereon a suitable building for the use of said library.

May lease rooms.

SEC. 6. Every library and reading room or either of them, established under this act, shall be forever free to the use of

the inhabitants of the city or village where located, always subject to such reasonable rules and regulations as the library board may adopt in order to render the use of the said library and reading room, or either of them, of the greatest benefit to the greatest number; and said board may exclude from the use of the said library and reading room, or either of them, any and all persons who shall wilfully violate such rules.

Library to be free.

SEC. 7. The said board of directors shall make, on or before the first (1st) day of April in each year, an annual report to the city or village council, stating the conditions of their trust on the first day of March of that year; the various sums of money received from the library fund and other sources, and how such moneys have been expended and for what purposes; the number of books and periodicals on hand; the number added by purchase, gift, or otherwise, during the year; the number lost or missing; the number of persons attending; the number of books loaned out, and the general character and kind of such books, with such other statistics, information and suggestions as they may deem of general interest.

Directors to make annual report.

SEC. 8. The council of said city or village shall have power to pass ordinances imposing suitable penalties for the punishment of persons committing injury upon such library or other property thereof, and for injury to or failure to return any book belonging to such library.

Power of council.

SEC. 9. Any person desiring to make donations of money, personal property or real estate for the benefit of such library, shall have the right to vest the title to the money, property or real estate so donated, in the board of directors created under this act, to be held and controlled by such board when accepted, according to the terms of the deed, gift, devise or bequest of such property, and as to such property the board shall be held and considered to be special trustees.

Donations.

SEC. 10. Any library already existing, or hereafter established in any city or village which shall establish a free library and reading room, or either of them, under the provisions of this act, may be transferred by the society, association or individuals owning the same, to the board of directors created under this act, on such terms not inconsistent with the objects of this act, as may be mutually agreed upon; and as to such property the said board of directors shall be held and considered to be special trustees. *Provided also*, That any incorporated city may establish one or more reading rooms to accommodate the inhabitants thereof, in different parts of said city, under the provisions of this act.

Libraries already established may be transferred.

SEC. 11. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 4, 1879.