

"4281. Every such company shall provide at all stations in villages containing two hundred and fifty inhabitants or more, *within thirty days after written notice, served in the same manner as a summons in district court, from the village council of such village requiring such company so to do*, and at other stations and sidings when required by the commission, immediately alongside of its tracks or side tracks, platforms with approaches at each end, suitable and convenient for loading upon and unloading from its cars heavy machinery and other freight. Such platforms shall be at least twelve feet wide, strongly built, and floored with plank at least three inches thick. The platforms, exclusive of approaches, shall be at least thirty-two feet long, and of the height of the floor of an ordinary box car, and the approaches of such grade that heavily loaded teams can be driven up and down the same. Any such company failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall forfeit to the state not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars for every thirty days that such failure shall continue."

Approved April 4, 1923.

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#### CHAPTER 143—S. F. No. 412.

*An act relating to common school districts containing ten or more townships, and more than thirty schools, and to elections therein, and to trustees and appointive officers thereof.*

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

Section 1. **School officers in certain districts.**—In each common school district containing ten or more townships and more than thirty schools upon the passage of this act, or hereafter coming into that class, each person theretofore elected a trustee thereof shall hold his office for the duration of the term for which he was elected and until the first Monday in January next following, unless sooner vacated according to law. Vacancies shall be filled by the remaining members of the school board by appointment until the first Monday in January following the next biennial election. At each biennial election there shall be elected successors of the board members whose terms end prior to the next biennial election, as well as members or officers to fill vacancies for unexpired terms; and the terms of members so elected shall commence on the expiration of the terms of their predecessors and except when elected to fill unexpired terms shall be for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified; provided, when any such term commences in January in an even numbered year it shall be for three years; provided further that in districts not having officers holding over as elected officers of common school districts containing ten or more townships, there shall be elect-

ed at the first biennial election a chairman and a treasurer to hold for two years and a clerk to hold for four years. All general provisions of law for the nomination and election of county officers shall apply to the nomination and election of school officers hereunder, and such school officers shall be nominated and elected without party designation.

**Sec. 2. Annual and special meetings—Proceedings.**—Annual and special meetings of such school districts shall be called and held in the manner and at the time provided by law for such meetings of common school districts containing ten or more townships, in the village or township having the largest school attendance during the preceding school year; provided, proposed bond issues and all other matters required or desired to be submitted to vote by ballot shall be so submitted at a general biennial election or at a special election held in each precinct, as hereinafter set forth. The office and meeting place of the board shall be in the same village or township; provided that the board may in their discretion hold special meetings in any other township when the business to be transacted relates exclusively to affairs of such townships and the convenient vicinity.

The proceedings of the board shall be published in accordance with chapter 496, Laws 1919, the letting of the contract therefore to be at their first meeting annually.

**Sec. 3. May divide district into precincts.**—At least thirty days before first submitting any proposition to be voted upon by ballot, otherwise than at the general biennial election, the trustees of school board of any such school district shall, by resolution in writing, divide the district into precincts, for the purpose of voting upon bond issues and all other matters so required or desired to be submitted for vote by ballot; and may thereafter from time to time change the boundaries of such precincts, consolidate two or more or establish new ones, as the convenience of the voters shall require; provided, so far as practicable, the precinct boundaries shall follow the lines of general election precincts in the district, and no change of boundaries shall be made within thirty days prior to any election. Such resolution shall describe the precincts, giving the boundaries thereof, fix a polling place in each at some school building or other place deemed most convenient to the voters, and shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the district. A copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the county auditor, and like copies shall be posted at the polling places in each district affected, at least ten days before the next school election held thereafter.

**Sec. 4. Notices of special election.**—Notices of such special election shall be given by publication and by posting in each precinct substantially in the manner now provided by law for

notices of special meetings of common school districts, but need not specifically designate the polling places otherwise designated, as hereinbefore provided, in each precinct.

**Sec. 5. Special election—Officers.**—At least ten days before any special election the school board shall by resolution filed with the clerk thereof appoint from the resident electors a moderator or judge of election and two clerks for each precinct. The clerk of said school board shall immediately notify in writing each person so appointed of his appointment, and such persons, if present at the hour set for opening of the polls, shall qualify, open the polls and conduct such elections substantially in the same manner as elections for county officers; provided, unless otherwise designated by the voters at any such election or at an annual school meeting, the school board may fix the hours for opening and closing the polls in any such precinct elections, but the polls shall in each case be open for at least one hour. If any of the appointed officers are absent or fail to act at the hour set for opening the polls, the electors present may choose any elector then present to fill the vacancy, who shall qualify and act. Upon the closing of the polls the election officers acting in each precinct shall forthwith count the votes and certify the result thereof to the clerk of the district, placing the certificate, poll list, ballots and all other records of the election in an envelope, securely sealed, and shall mail or deliver the same forthwith to the clerk of the district. The ballots shall be separately enclosed and sealed, within the envelopes, shall be preserved for one year, and shall not be opened or examined except in case of a contest or by the order of a court of record. The school board shall canvass said votes and returns and declare and record the result thereof, and take such further proceedings as are required or authorized thereby.

**Sec. 6. Method of calling special elections.**—On petition of at least ten per cent of the number of voters at the last preceding general election, the trustees shall within sixty days cause to be submitted at a general or special election, but not oftener than once in four years, the proposition "Shall the number of trustees be increased to five?" If so required in the petition, there shall also be submitted at the same time the proposition, "Shall such change take effect at once?" If said first mentioned proposition carries, the trustees shall, within thirty days, by resolution filed with their clerk and with the county auditor, divide the district into three groups of precincts, to be known and numbered as subdivisions, of as compact shape and as nearly equal population as may be, which may be changed from time to time, but not oftener than quadrennially. The terms of the trustees last elected shall not be shortened, but each shall be treated as the member for the subdivision of his residence;

or, if two or more reside in the same subdivision, they shall determine by lot or as hereinafter provided which shall be the subdivision trustee, and which shall be trustee or trustees at large. At the next ensuing primary and general elections, vacancies shall be filled, if any, and there shall be chosen trustees at large or for subdivisions to succeed those whose terms are about to expire, and also two additional trustees, at large or for subdivisions, so that there will be a trustee for each subdivision and two trustees at large. The designation of hold-over trustees, as aforesaid, and the fixing of the terms of two or four years for the additional trustees first elected, shall be such that thereafter one trustee at large and not over two subdivision trustees shall be elected at each biennial election, aside from filling vacancies; and, when necessary to this end, the additional trustees receiving the larger vote shall hold for the longer term.

Provided, if the voters have determined that said change shall take effect at once, said two additional trustees first chosen shall be elected at a special election to be called and held within ninety days after the creation of said subdivisions, and the candidates shall be nominated under Sections 371 to 374 inclusive, General Statutes 1913, and elected for terms ending on the first Monday in January following the next general election—or one ending then and one two years thereafter—so as to put in operation the plan aforesaid. In all cases the nomination and election of each trustee, whether at large or from a subdivision, shall be open to participation by all the voters of the district. Upon a five-member board's being duly constituted, the district shall be known as a "general school district," the offices of the chairman, clerk and treasurer, as such, shall become vacant, and the board shall choose at their first meeting annually from among their number a chairman, and from among or without their number, a clerk and a treasurer, and may also so choose a business manager who may be the same person as the chairman, clerk or superintendent. The appointive officers shall have the functions and powers now or hereafter vested in such or like officers by law, and such others as may lawfully be delegated to them by the board—except that, unless elected as such, they shall not be members of the board. Each member of the board as such shall receive as compensation the sum of five dollars for each day's attendance at board or committee meetings, together with his actual traveling expenses, which may include not to exceed eight cents per mile for use of his own automobile in going to and from such meetings; and the appointive officers such compensation and expenses as shall be determined by the board by contract or otherwise—provided, unless specifically authorized by the voters, by ballot, the aggregate annual compensation of the board and such appointive officers shall not exceed twice the lawful com-

pensation of the trustees of a three-member board of a like district.

Sec. 7. **Laws applicable.**—All laws applicable to school districts containing ten or more townships shall continue to apply to like general school districts, except as far as inconsistent herewith, and except as hereafter repealed or amended.

Sec. 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 4, 1923.

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CHAPTER 144—S. F. No. 553.

*An act authorizing the governor and attorney general to act as a committee to protect the interests of the State of Minnesota and of the people thereof against a trade practice known as "Pittsburgh Plus" and other similar trade practices, and making an appropriation therefor.*

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

Section 1. **Pittsburgh plus committee created.**—There is hereby created a committee consisting of the governor and attorney general, which committee shall have full power and authority to protect and shall be charged with the duty of protecting the state of Minnesota and the people thereof against the steel trade practice commonly known as "Pittsburgh Plus" and other similar trade practices, and said committee is hereby authorized to use all lawful means for the accomplishment of said purposes.

Sec. 2. **Appropriation.**—There is hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of ten thousand dollars for carrying out the purposes of this act.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 4, 1923.

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CHAPTER 145—S. F. No. 665.

*An act to amend Section 1978, General Statutes of 1913, relating to supervisory powers of tax commission in refunding taxes.*

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

Section 1. **Supervisory powers of tax commission.**—That Section 1978 of General Statutes of 1913, be amended so as to read as follows:

"Section 1978. The Minnesota tax commission shall prescribe the form of all blanks and books required under this chapter. It shall hear and determine all matters of grievance relating to taxation. It shall have power to grant such reduction or abatement of