

county and shall in no case become a charge against the fund created by any such county and any such city for operation of the board of public welfare.

Sec. 8. Laws repealed.—The act entitled “An Act to Authorize the County of Ramsey and City of St. Paul to Issue Bonds to Build an Almshouse and Hospital, and for other purposes,” approved February 29, 1872 (printed as a joint resolution designated as Chapter 99, in Extra Session Laws of 1902), and all acts amendatory thereof and supplemental thereto, and all other acts inconsistent with the provisions hereof, are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. Effective July 1, 1929.—This act shall take effect and be in force on July 1, 1929.

Approved April 25, 1929.

CHAPTER 372—S. F. No. 685

An act to authorize counties, cities and villages to install and use time controlled seal presses to authenticate and mark election ballots.

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

Section 1. Ballots may be marked with seal.—Any city of the first class using the Australian ballot system in city elections may, at the option of the governing body having control and supervision of elections in such city install and use in one or more voting precincts in such city one or more time controlled seal press or presses for authenticating paper ballots with a special official seal upon the head of said ballot before it is given to the voter which seal will identify it as a legally voted ballot; and a time controlled seal press for each voting booth in one or more voting precincts which shall be used by the voters for impressing the ballots with a special seal of the particular voting precinct opposite the name of each candidate voted for. All ballots cast at any general, special or primary election in each precinct where such time controlled seal press is installed shall be so stamped with said seal presses and no ballot shall be counted or be regarded as a vote legally cast unless so stamped.

Sec. 2. Counting device.—a. There shall be a die which shall be used to emboss upon the head of each ballot an impression circular in shape and said impression shall contain the name of the state, the name of the county, city or village and the name or number of the ward or township and the number of the voting precinct or election district. There shall be a counting device connected with said seal press and adapted to count and register each ballot impressed with the official seal upon the counting device. This counting device shall be in plain view of the voters and others at all times. The said counting device shall be enclosed within a casing and there shall be a sure acting positive connecting means between the said counting device and the said sealing die. The sealing die shall be provided with mechanism in cooperation therewith whereby but a single ballot may be embossed at any one actuation of the seal press. The seal press shall be provided with mechanism so that the seal press cannot be operated at any time until and unless a ballot is inserted in a position to receive the seal. The seal press shall also be provided with means in connection with said counting device whereby each actuation of the press must be completed before the sealing die can return for another operation or the ballot being operated upon released or before said operation shall have effected registration on the counting device.

b. The seal presses in the booths shall be adapted to operate upon any ballot of reasonable dimensions and shall punch a small hole through the ballot and around this hole they shall emboss the same words, letters or figures as the case may be as is embossed upon the head of the ballot in the same voting precinct.

Sec. 3. Shall have time measuring device.—There shall be an approved make of time measuring device encased within said seal presses, and the said time measuring device in cooperation with other mechanism shall be adapted to control the use of the said seal presses so that they will be operable during the legal voting time on election day only, and so that they will be inoperable for a period of ten days from the closing of the polling places on election day, and, also so that the casing must be unlocked by a master key, to be held at all times by the election board or other governing body which has the supervision of election of the city installing such device, before it will be possible to again put the said seal presses into operation or to turn the counting device to zero.

Sec. 4. Shall be operated by hand.—All seal presses referred to in this act shall be adapted to be operated by hand.

Sec. 5. May provide extra presses.—Each city that provided seal presses under this act may also provide a sufficient number of extra seal presses to take care of the various voting precincts in case

of the regular seal presses being out of order or missing. These extra seal presses shall have dies lettered with the name of the state and city and in addition thereto shall have marked "Special No. 1" and "Special No. 2," etc., and shall be assigned to any voting precinct in case of any such emergency and shall thereby become the official seal press for such precinct for that election.

Sec. 6. Election board to operate presses.—It shall be the duty of the election board in each polling place to operate the seal press and place its impression upon each ballot to be cast before it is given to the voter, but, in no event, shall he or any other person whatsoever, place such impression upon any other paper or substance, and shall not place such impression upon a ballot until a duly qualified voter is present and ready to receive it and then only in plain view of such prospective voter, and the precinct election board shall keep and return with other supplies, such seal presses and each and every ballot impressed with its impression.

Sec. 7. To use presses to mark ballots.—The voters shall operate the seal presses in the voting booths and shall place the seal press impression opposite the name of any particular candidate, party, question or otherwise they wish to vote for, and, in the event that a voter spoils his ballot he shall be required to sign his name, together with the word "spoiled" upon the head of such spoiled ballot and return the same to the precinct election board before he shall be entitled to receive another ballot bearing the seal press impression, and may, if he so desires, sever the head of the spoiled ballot and turn in the head only.

Sec. 8. Violations a gross misdemeanor.—Any person wilfully or neglectfully failing to carry out any of the provisions of this act, or any person violating any of the provisions of this act, or any person having in his possession, without authority, any seal press, part of a seal press, or any die, part of a die, or image, exactly or nearly duplicating the impression of any seal press provided under the provisions of this act, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Sec. 9. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 25, 1929.

CHAPTER 373—S. F. No. 910

An act authorizing certain counties to appropriate moneys to aid county agricultural societies.