

CHAPTER 375

COUNTY BOARDS

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375.01 MEMBERS, NUMBER OF. Each county shall have a board of five commissioners who shall be known as the county board and whose terms of office shall be four years and until their successors qualify; but, in counties having an area of over 5,000 square miles and a population exceeding 75,000, the board shall consist of seven members.

[R. L. s. 419] (650)

375.02 COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS. Each county shall be divided into as many districts numbered consecutively as it has members of the board. In all counties such districts shall be bounded by town, village, ward, or precinct lines, composed of contiguous territory, and contain as nearly as practicable an equal population. Counties may be redistricted by the county board after each state or federal census. No city of the second class shall be in more than two commissioner districts. When it appears that after a state or federal census 30 per cent or more of the population of any county is contained in one district, exclusive of the inmates of any state penal or corrective institution, or state hospital for the insane, maintained wholly or partly within such district, such county shall be redistricted by its county board. The county board may first submit the question of redistricting to the voters of the county at the next regular election after such state or federal census or the passage of Laws 1943, Chapter 300, upon a separate ballot and in the following form: Shall there be a redistricting of county commissioners' districts?

☐ Yes

☐ No

In the event the voters on this question cast a majority vote in favor of redistricting, the county board shall redistrict. Otherwise it need not do so. When any Board of County Commissioners has not redistricted a county as by law required prior to the enactment of Laws 1943, Chapter 300, such board may submit to the voters the question of redistricting as herein provided and shall be subject to the provisions of Laws 1943, Chapter 300.

The county board shall not have authority or jurisdiction to redistrict a county unless it shall cause at least three weeks' published notice of its purpose to do so, stating the time and place of the meeting where the matter will be considered, to be published in the newspaper having the contract for publishing the commissioners' proceedings for the county for the current year. One commissioner shall be elected in each such district who, at the time of the election, shall be a resident thereof, and the person so elected shall be entitled to hold the office only while he remains a resident of the commissioner district. When a county is redistricted there shall be a new election of commissioners in all the districts of the county at the next general election. The board shall determine that not less than two, nor more than three, members of the board shall be elected for a term of two years and the remainder for a term of four years at the next general election. Thereafter all commissioners shall be elected for four years; provided that where no change is made in the boundaries of a district, or in districts having only one resident commissioner after such redistricting, the commissioner in office at the time of the redistricting shall serve for the full period for which he was elected, and where a county has heretofore been redistricted between the time of the general election and the time at which commissioners elected at such general election were required to qualify and no change was made in the boundary of the district to which such commissioner was elected, or in districts having only one resident commissioner after such redistricting, such commissioner-elect, after duly qualifying as a commissioner for the district, shall serve for the full period for which elected.

[R. L. s. 420; 1913 c. 537 s. 1; 1917 c. 370; 1923 c. 366 s. 1; 1931 c. 105; 1933 c. 77; 1933 c. 363; 1935 c. 279; Ex. 1936 c. 76; 1941 c. 268; 1943 c. 300 s. 1] (651)

375.03 TERM OF COMMISSIONERS. In each new county, and in each county which shall be entitled to an increase of the number of commissioners, there shall be elected at the next general election a commissioner from each odd-numbered district for a term of two years, and one from each even-numbered district for a term of four years; and thereafter all commissioners shall be elected for a term of four years, except that elections or appointments to fill vacancies shall be for the unexpired term only. In counties having a population of more than 150,000, every such commissioner, before he enters upon his duties, shall give bond to the state in the sum of \$10,000, with a legally authorized surety company as surety, conditioned for the faithful performance of his official duties. Such bond shall be approved by a judge of the district court, and, together with his oath of office and certificate of election, be filed with the public examiner. The premium on the bond shall not exceed that prescribed by law for county treasurers, and shall be paid by the county.

[R. L. s. 421] (652)

375.04 TIE DETERMINED BY LOT. If two or more persons have an equal and the highest number of votes for the office of county commissioner in any district, the auditor shall give notice, in writing, to such persons to attend at his office at a time specified, and he shall then and there, in their presence, publicly decide by lot which of them shall be declared elected. The person so selected shall be the commissioner from the district.

[R. L. s. 422] (653)

375.05 SALARIES OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. Each commissioner shall receive from the county in full for all his services an annual salary, as follows:

(1) In counties whose assessed valuation does not exceed \$2,500,000, the sum of \$125;

(2) In counties whose assessed valuation is more than \$2,500,000, and does not exceed \$6,000,000, the sum of \$225;

(3) In counties whose assessed valuation is more than \$6,000,000, and does not exceed \$12,000,000, the sum of \$325;

(4) In counties whose assessed valuation is more than \$12,000,000, and does not exceed \$20,000,000, the sum of \$400;

(5) In counties whose assessed valuation is more than \$20,000,000, and does not exceed \$40,000,000, the sum of \$600, which amount shall be paid in lieu of all other charges or allowances, except that such commissioners may be allowed and paid in addition thereto their actual and necessary traveling expenses incurred and paid by them in the discharge of their official duties; provided, that the total aggregate amount of the traveling expenses of all the county commissioners of any such county which may be so allowed and paid shall not exceed the sum of \$1,200

in any one year; and, if a county commissioner uses his own team or automobile in the necessary performance of the official duties of his office, he shall be allowed for the use thereof such reasonable amount as the use of a team or an automobile could be hired for, under the same circumstances, from a person engaged in the livery business in the same locality; such allowance shall not exceed ten cents per mile for each mile actually traveled, and no charge shall be made or paid for the time consumed by such county commissioner's conveyance while in waiting;

(6) In counties whose assessed valuation is more than \$40,000,000, and does not exceed \$100,000,000, the sum of \$800, which amount shall be paid in lieu of all other charges or allowances, except that such commissioners may be allowed and paid in addition thereto their actual and necessary traveling expenses incurred and paid by them in the discharge of their official duties; provided, that the total aggregate amount of the traveling expenses of all the county commissioners of any such county which may be so allowed and paid shall not exceed the sum of \$1,200 in any one year;

(7) In counties whose assessed valuation is more than \$100,000,000, the sum of \$1,200, which shall be in full for all services upon the county and other boards and committees and all traveling and other expenses within the county.

This section shall not be construed as repealing or amending any of the provisions of Laws 1915, Chapters 85, 88, 95, or 298, Laws 1917, Chapters 94, 114, 152, 175, 275, 301, or 489, or Laws 1919, Chapter 23, or any acts amendatory thereof. This section shall not reduce the amount of salaries paid to the county commissioners of any county in this state at the time of the passage thereof, but such salaries shall remain the same as they may be at that time.

This section shall not apply to any county in this state now or hereafter having a population of not less than 45,000, nor more than 60,000, according to the last federal census, and consisting of not less than 35, nor more than 45, congressional townships.

[R. L. s. 423; 1907 c. 204; 1909 c. 388; 1911 c. 374; 1913 c. 308 s. 1; 1919 c. 242; 1919 c. 487] (656)

375.055 SALARIES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. Subdivision 1. **Salary schedule.** The county commissioners, in all counties of the state with less than 50,000 inhabitants and in all counties having a population of 60,000 and less than 100,000, shall receive as compensation for services rendered by them for their respective counties, annual salaries, based on the population according to the then last preceding state or federal census, the taxable valuation of real and personal property, exclusive of money and credits, as reported in the abstract of tax lists for the preceding year, and the number of full or fractional congressional townships, as follows:

(a) In counties with less than 6,500 inhabitants \$150 and \$250 for each \$1,000,000 taxable valuation or major fraction thereof, and \$2.00 for each full or fractional congressional township, with the aggregate not to exceed \$600;

(b) In counties with 6,500 but less than 12,000 inhabitants \$200 and \$150 for each \$1,000,000 taxable valuation or major fraction thereof, and \$2.00 for each full or fractional congressional township, with the aggregate not to exceed \$650;

(c) In counties with 12,000 but less than 16,000 inhabitants \$300 and \$75 for each \$1,000,000 taxable valuation or major fraction thereof, and \$2.00 for each full or fractional congressional township, with the aggregate not to exceed \$825;

(d) In counties with 16,000 but less than 21,000 inhabitants \$400 and \$50 for each \$1,000,000 taxable valuation or major fraction thereof, and \$2.00 for each full or fractional congressional township, with the aggregate not to exceed \$900;

(e) In counties with 21,000 but less than 30,000 inhabitants \$650 and \$25 for each \$1,000,000 taxable valuation or major fraction thereof, and \$2.00 for each full or fractional congressional township, with the aggregate not to exceed \$950;

(f) In counties with 30,000 but less than 50,000 inhabitants \$800 and \$25 for each \$1,000,000 taxable valuation or major fraction thereof, and \$2.00 for each full or fractional congressional township, with the aggregate not to exceed \$1,200;

(g) In counties with 60,000 but less than 100,000 inhabitants, \$1,000 and \$25 for each \$1,000,000 taxable valuation or major fraction thereof, and \$2.00 for each full or fractional congressional township, with the aggregate not to exceed \$1,500.

Subd. 2. Present salaries in excess of schedule. In any county where the county commissioners are now receiving a higher salary under any existing act, including any amount granted under the provisions of Laws 1943, Chapter 212 or 597, whether such acts were temporary or permanent, than the amount which they would receive

under the provisions of this section, such salary shall continue in force at the amount so established. If circumstances or economic conditions should hereafter exist in any county of sufficient importance to convince the county board that the salaries of the county commissioners should be increased or decreased, it may, by resolution, increase or decrease such salaries in an amount it may consider proper, but such increase or decrease shall in no case be more than 15 per cent of the amount granted such county commissioners within the classifications provided for in this section. Whenever the county board increases or decreases the salaries of the county commissioners, it shall also have authority to revoke or terminate such increases or decreases whenever it is convinced that such increases or decreases are no longer necessary or justifiable.

Subd. 3. Implied repeals. Except as otherwise herein provided, all acts or parts of acts, which relate to salaries of county commissioners, in any counties in the state having less than 50,000 inhabitants and in all counties having a population of 60,000 and less than 100,000 according to the last federal census, are hereby repealed insofar as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

Subd. 4. Fees. Nothing in this section shall limit the right of any county commissioner to collect and retain any fees, per diem payment, or other payment which he is now authorized by any other provision of law to collect and retain in addition to the stated amount of his annual salary.

Subd. 5. Validation. The salary heretofore paid any county commissioner under the provisions of any existing law insofar as they are inconsistent with this section, which may be found to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, by a court of competent jurisdiction, is hereby legalized and made valid.

Subd. 6. Limitation. This section shall not be construed as repealing or superseding any other act, relating to the same subject, enacted by the 1949 session of the Legislature, nor shall it be construed as repealing any existing law which provides for a higher salary, in any county, than the amount provided in Section 375.055.

Subd. 7. Terminating May 1, 1951. The annual salaries of the county commissioners, of any county, established by the provisions of this section, shall be effective only for a period of two years, commencing on May 1, 1949, and terminating on May 1, 1951.

[1945 c 526 s 1, 2, 4, 5, 6; 1947 c 259 s 1; 1949 c 423 s 1]

375.06 COMPENSATION AND MILEAGE IN COUNTIES HAVING LESS THAN 75,000 INHABITANTS. The several members of the county boards in counties having less than 75,000 inhabitants shall receive \$3.00 per day for each and every day necessarily occupied in the discharge of their official duties while acting on any committee under the direction of the board, and ten cents per mile, each way, for every mile necessarily traveled in attending such committee work, and shall also be entitled to mileage of ten cents per mile, each way, for every mile necessarily traveled for attending meetings of the board, not to exceed 12 meetings in any one year; and, in addition, the chairman of the county board shall receive ten cents per mile, each way, for going to the county-seat to sign warrants during recess of the county board.

[1907 c. 296; 1911 c. 283; 1913 c. 456 s. 1] (657)

375.07 MEETINGS; QUORUM. The board shall meet at the county-seat for the transaction of business on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, and on the second Monday in July, in each year, and shall hold such extra sessions as it deems necessary for the interests of the county. A majority shall constitute a quorum, and no business shall be done unless voted for by a majority of the whole board, but less than a majority may adjourn. Extra sessions shall be called by a majority of the board and the clerk shall give at least ten days' notice thereof to each of the commissioners. No session shall continue longer than six days.

[R. L. s. 424] (658)

375.08 BOARD TO FILL VACANCIES IN COUNTY OFFICES. When a vacancy occurs in the office of county auditor, county treasurer, register of deeds, sheriff, county attorney, county surveyor, coroner, or county superintendent, the county board shall fill the same by appointment. For that purpose it shall meet at the usual place of meeting, upon one day's notice from the chairman or clerk, which shall be served personally upon each member in the same manner as a district court summons is authorized to be served. The person so appointed shall give the bond and take the oath required by law, and shall hold for the remainder of the unexpired term, and until his successor qualifies; provided, that when such

vacancy occurs in any of the offices hereinbefore mentioned, in which office there is a chief deputy or first assistant, then the chief deputy or first assistant is empowered and authorized to perform all of the duties and functions of the office until such time as the same is filled by appointment by the county board.

[R. L. s. 425; 1939 c. 153] (659)

375.09 MAY NOT HOLD OTHER OFFICE; NO INTEREST IN CONTRACT; VIOLATION; MALFEASANCE. No county commissioner shall be appointed or elected by the board of which he is a member to any office or position of trust or emolument, and no commissioner shall receive any money or other valuable thing as a condition of voting or inducement to vote for any contract or other thing under consideration by the board, or become a party to, or directly or indirectly interested in, any contract made by the board; and every appointment or election made and every contract or payment voted for or made contrary to the provisions of this section shall be void. Any violation of the provisions of this section shall be a malfeasance in office.

[R. L. s. 447] (778)

375.10 VACANCY IN OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER; HOW FILLED. Any vacancy in the office of county commissioner occurring more than 30 days before election shall be filled by a board of appointment, consisting of the chairman of the town board of each town, and the mayor or president of each city and village, in the commissioner district in which such vacancy occurs, which shall meet at the auditor's office for that purpose, upon three days' written notice given by such auditor and served personally. If such commissioner district is wholly within the limits of a city or village, such vacancy shall be filled by the council of such municipality. If the board of appointment, as so constituted, consists of an even number of members and shall fail to fill such vacancy within ten days after the date of the first meeting thereof, upon notice given to him by the county auditor, the county attorney shall also become and be a member. If such vacancy in the office of the county commissioner shall occur in a county in which the township system has been completely abolished, such vacancy shall be filled by the board of county commissioners, and the county auditor. Absence from the county for six consecutive months shall be deemed to create a vacancy.

[R. L. s. 426; 1923 c. 315; 1935 c. 84 s. 1] (660)

375.11 SEAL; AUTHENTICATED COPIES OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE. The seal of the county auditor shall be the seal of the board and copies of its proceedings, authenticated as required by law, shall be prima facie evidence thereof in all cases.

[R. L. s. 427] (661)

375.12 PUBLICATION OF PROCEEDINGS. The county board shall cause the official proceedings of its sessions to be published in some qualified newspaper printed and published in its county, which publication shall be let annually by contract to the lowest bidder, at the first regular session of the board in January each year. In each county whose population exceeds 450,000, the proceedings shall be published in a daily newspaper, and in counties having a population exceeding 250,000 but less than 450,000, the proceedings may be published in any legal newspaper, printed and published at the county-seat, which newspaper shall be the official newspaper of the county, and in each such county the proceedings shall be published also in one other qualified newspaper printed and published in the county outside the county-seat. The board may reject any offer if, in its judgment, the public interests so require, and may thereupon designate a newspaper without regard to any rejected offer. In any county whose population exceeds 50,000, and is less than 250,000, the proceedings may be published in one daily and one weekly newspaper at their respective county-seats. If the official newspaper of the county shall cease to exist for any reason, except by consolidation with another newspaper, the county board shall have authority to designate another newspaper for the remainder of the year.

[R. L. s. 428; 1907 c. 447; 1941 c. 507; 1947 c. 161 s. 1; 1949 c. 69 s. 1] (662)

375.13 CHAIRMAN. The county board, at its first session in each year shall elect from its members a chairman and a vice-chairman. The chairman shall preside at its meetings and sign all documents requiring signature on its behalf and his signature as chairman, attested by the county auditor, shall be binding as the signature of such board. In case of the absence or incapacity of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall perform his duties. In counties having more than five commis-

sioners, and in which counties the mayor of a city of the first class located in such county is by law ex officio chairman of such board, a second vice-chairman shall be elected, who shall perform the duties of the chairman and vice-chairman in their absence. If the chairman and vice-chairman or vice-chairmen, as the case may be, are absent from any meeting, all documents requiring the signature of the board shall be signed by a majority thereof and likewise attested.

[R. L. s. 429; 1937 c. 165 s. 1] (663)

375.14 OFFICES AND SUPPLIES FURNISHED FOR COUNTY OFFICERS. The county board shall provide offices at the county-seat for the auditor, treasurer, register of deeds, sheriff, judge of probate, clerk of the district court, county superintendent of schools, and county highway engineer, with suitable furniture therefor, also safes and vaults for the security and preservation of the books and papers belonging thereto, and provide for the heating, lighting, and maintenance of such offices. The board shall furnish all county officers with all books, stationery, letter-heads, envelopes, postage, telephone service, office equipment, and supplies necessary to the discharge of their respective duties and make like provision for the judges of the district court so far as may be necessary to the discharge of their duties within the county or concerning matters arising therein; provided, that the board shall not be required to furnish any county officer with professional or technical books or instruments except in so far as the board may deem the same to be directly necessary to the discharge of his official duties as part of the permanent equipment of his office.

[R. L. s. 430; 1927 c. 346] (664)

375.15 DAMAGED RECORDS TRANSCRIBED. In case the records of any offices named in section 375.14 shall be damaged so as to render any portion of them liable to become illegible, destroyed, or lost, the county board shall provide suitable books, and cause such records to be transcribed, so that the new volumes will correspond, in designation, letter or number, and page, to the original records. The fees for such work shall be fixed by such board, and shall not exceed seven cents per folio for the whole work done. Printed record books shall be used when practicable for both original and transcribed records.

[R. L. s. 432] (666)

375.16 APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENSES. At its regular meetings in January and July the county board may appropriate from the county revenue fund a sum not exceeding \$2,000 to pay incidental expenses of county officers incurred for postage, and for necessary express, freight, telephone, telegraph, water, and light charges, the mileage and per diem of town officers making election returns, to be paid on the warrant of the county auditor upon the presentation of a properly itemized and verified bill, except in cases where the county auditor considers the sum charged excessive, in which case he shall file the bill, if requested by the person presenting the same, for action by the board at its next meeting.

[R. L. s. 431; 1907 c. 390 s. 1; 1919 c. 305; 1947 c. 149 s. 1] (665)

375.17 PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. Annually, not later than the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February, the county board shall make a full and accurate statement of the receipts and expenditures of the preceding year, which shall contain a statement of the assets and liabilities, a summary of receipts, disbursements, and balances of all county funds together with a detailed statement of each fund account together with an itemized account of amounts paid out, to whom, and for what purpose, under the form and style prescribed by and on file with the public examiner, which prescribed form and any changes or modifications thereof shall so far as practical be uniform for all counties and shall be approved by the attorney general and the state printer and within 30 days thereafter shall cause the same to be published for one issue in some newspaper within the county, which newspaper must be a duly qualified legal newspaper, as provided by law; provided that the county board may refrain from publishing the names of persons receiving poor relief or direct relief and the amounts paid to each, but the totals of the disbursements for such purposes must be published. In addition to the publication thereof in the newspaper designated by the board as the official newspaper for publication of the financial statement, the same shall be published in one other newspaper of the county, located in a different section of the county than the official newspaper. The county board shall call for separate bids for each publication. At its meeting in July and January each year it shall examine and count all the funds in the treasury, examine the accounts and vouchers of the auditor and

treasurer, and make a written certificate of the condition of the treasury, showing the amount, kind, and character of the funds therein, and all other matters in connection therewith and file the same with the auditor. In so far as any provision of this section is inconsistent with the provisions of section 393.07, the provisions of that section shall prevail.

[*R L s 433; 1907 c 205 s 1; 1933 c 410; 1941 c 370 s 1; 1945 c 170 s 1; 1947 c 235 s 1*]
(667)

375.18 GENERAL POWERS OF BOARD. The county board of each county shall have power:

(1) To examine and settle all accounts of the receipts and expenses of the county, and to examine, settle, and allow all accounts, demands, and causes of action against the same, and, when so settled, to issue county orders therefor, as provided by law;

(2) To have the care of the county property, and management of the county funds and business, except in cases otherwise provided for, and to make such orders concerning the same as they deem expedient;

(3) To erect, furnish, and maintain a suitable courthouse and jail, but no indebtedness shall be created for such purpose in excess of five mills on each dollar of assessed valuation;

(4) To set off, organize, vacate, and change the boundaries of towns subject to the limitations hereinafter prescribed, designate the time and place of holding the first town meeting therein, and make all necessary orders for the disposition and preservation of the records of any town vacated;

(5) To apportion, pro rata, according to the assessed valuation, among the several parts of a town divided by them, any funds of such town not raised or theretofore appropriated for a purpose inconsistent with such apportionment;

(6) To apportion all uncollected taxes then levied or assessed for the benefit of any town divided by the board, and provide for the payment thereof when collected, pursuant to the apportionment, having due regard to the purpose for which such taxes were levied;

(7) To transfer by unanimous vote any surplus beyond the needs of the current year in any county fund to any other such fund to supply a deficiency therein, except in counties having over 75,000 inhabitants;

(8) To appropriate to any county agricultural society of its county, which is a member of the state agricultural society, or to any farm improvement association organized by the citizens of two or more counties jointly for the purpose of advancing the agricultural interest of each of such counties, a sum of money not exceeding \$1,000 each, annually; provided, that in any county in which two county agricultural societies are members of the state agricultural society any appropriation so made shall be divided equally between them; and, in addition to the appropriation above referred to, in all cases where a county owns grounds and buildings used for agricultural fairs and other purposes, the county board, by a four-fifths vote, may appropriate annually a sum of money equal to five per cent of the total value of such property in the association or society having the management, control, and direction of agricultural fairs held therein, for the purpose of repairs, upkeep, improvements, extensions, and alterations of such grounds and buildings; and, in all such cases, if the area of any such county is not less than 43, nor more than 45, full or fractional congressional townships and the population thereof is not less than 25,000, nor more than 31,000, according to the last federal census, such additional appropriation may be a sum not exceeding ten per cent of the total value of such property;

(9) To purchase or condemn land with such improvements, if any, as may be thereon, for the purpose of holding thereon agricultural fairs and exhibitions and appropriate money in payment therefor, not exceeding the sum of \$5,000, and such county board may purchase or condemn land for holding such fairs and exhibitions thereon and appropriate money in payment therefor in excess of the sum of \$5,000 when authorized so to do by a vote of the people; to accept and receive a donation or donations to be used to obtain lands for the purpose of holding thereon agricultural fairs and exhibitions and in such case and for such purpose, without being authorized by a vote of the people, to purchase or condemn lands not exceeding in value the amount of such donation or donations; to improve and erect structures thereon, for which purpose they may receive donations of money, materials or labor; and to lease such land from time to time to agricultural and other societies

of similar nature and to establish reasonable rules and regulations under which such land may be used by all such societies in the county; provided, that all structures and improvements made on such land by societies using the same shall belong to the county;

(All proceedings for the condemnation of such lands shall be had under the provisions of chapter 117);

(10) To appropriate, in counties having a population of not more than 20,000, a sum not exceeding \$10,000, and in counties having a population of more than 20,000, and less than 100,000, a sum not exceeding \$20,000, to erect or aid in erecting a monument or other memorial to the soldiers and sailors of the nation, such monument or other memorial to be constructed on the court-house square, or in a public park at the county-seat, or in a cemetery adjacent to the county-seat, or elsewhere in the county-seat;

(11) To authorize by resolution any person, company, or corporation to construct and maintain railway lines to be operated by other than steam power upon any public road outside of cities and villages not boulevarded or parked, for a period not exceeding 25 years, upon the terms as to use and occupation prescribed in such resolution; the use so granted not to interfere with the reasonable use of such road as a highway, and to cease in case of the vacation thereof, unless proceedings to condemn are taken within six months thereafter and diligently prosecuted; provided, that such railway and its property shall be subject to taxation by such methods and at such rate as the proper authorities may from time to time prescribe in accordance with law;

(12) To acquire by gift or purchase and improve not exceeding one acre of land within the county, for use as a park, site for a building, or other public purpose, and, when required by the public interest, to sell and convey the same; which land may be paid for out of moneys in the county treasury not otherwise appropriated, or by issuing bonds of the county; and

(13) To exercise such other powers as are or may be conferred upon them by law.

[*R L s 434; 1911 c 89; 1911 c 255; 1913 c 94; 1913 c 347; 1913 c 478; 1915 c 219; 1917 c 347; 1919 c 125; 1919 c 139; 1921 c 337; 1941 c 130; 1947 c 637 s 1*] (668)

375.19 ADDITIONAL POWERS. In addition to all other powers now or hereafter by law conferred upon county boards, authority hereby is given to receive and accept for their counties real or personal property by gift, bequest, devise, conveyance, or otherwise from any person whose care, support, treatment, or maintenance, in whole or in part, is or may be chargeable to or furnished or provided by such counties, and to hold or dispose of the same for the benefit of their counties, as by law provided in the case of other county property; to permit use of county equipment for soil conservation projects and to make expenditures from the general revenue fund for soil conservation purposes not exceeding an aggregate amount of one cent per acre of all lands included within soil conservation districts in the county.

[*1923 c 241; 1947 c 255 s 1*] (669)

375.191 AMBULANCE SERVICE. Subdivision 1. The board of county commissioners of any county in this state, now or hereafter having a population of not more than 50,000 inhabitants, shall have authority to contract with the owner, owners, or operators of a licensed ambulance, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between them, for the use of ambulance service in case of accidents occurring within the confines of said county.

Subd. 2. The board of county commissioners of any county to which this act applies, is authorized to make all needful appropriations to carry out its provisions.

[*1947 c 205 s 1, 2*]

375.192 REDUCTIONS IN ASSESSED VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY. Upon written application by the owner of the property, the county board of each county shall have power to grant such reduction, for the current year, of the assessed valuation of any real property in that county which erroneously has been classified, for tax purposes, as non-homestead property, as is necessary to give it the assessed valuation which it would have received if it had been classified correctly. The application shall be made on a form prescribed by the commissioner of taxation. It shall include a statement of facts of ownership and occupancy, and shall be sworn to by the owner of the property before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments. Before it is acted upon by the county board, the application shall be referred

to the county assessor, county supervisor of assessments of the county, or if the property is located in a city of the first class having a city assessor, to such assessor, who shall investigate the facts and attach his report of such investigation to the application.

[1949 c 76 s 1; 1949 c 485 s 1]

375.195 SALE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. Subdivision

1. **County auditor may sell property; request of land commissioner.** Upon resolution of the county board, the county auditor may offer for sale and sell at public auction for cash at not less than the value appraised by the county board, any buildings or improvements upon any lands held by the state in trust for the taxing districts. If such buildings are not sold at public auction as herein provided, they may thereafter, and at any time within one year from the date thereof, be sold at private sale by the county auditor at not less than the appraised value.

Subd. 2. **Zoning districts; sale on request of commissioner of conservation.** The county auditor may offer for sale and sell at public auction any buildings or improvements upon state lands or platted lots under the control of the commissioner of conservation not held in trust for the taxing districts, at not less than the value appraised by the county board and approved by the commissioner of conservation, provided such buildings or improvements shall not be offered for sale by the county auditor unless requested to do so by the commissioner of conservation. If such buildings or improvements are not sold when offered at such public sale, they may thereafter and within the period of one year therefrom be sold at private sale by the county auditor at not less than the appraised value thereof.

Subd. 3. **Finding by county board.** No such buildings or improvements shall be offered for sale or sold until the county board has, by resolution, found that such buildings or improvements constitute a fire hazard, an inducement to trespass, or constitute a public nuisance. At least two weeks prior to the sale of such buildings or improvements, the county auditor shall cause to be published in a legal newspaper in the county and shall post on the bulletin board in his office and at least one other prominent place in the court house, a notice of such sale, which notice shall include the date of the sale, a description of the buildings and improvements, the lands upon which they are situated and the appraised value thereof.

Subd. 4. **Sale conditioned upon removal.** All sales under subdivisions 1 or 2 shall be conditioned upon the removal from the land by the purchaser of all buildings and improvements within 90 days of the date of purchase, and upon failure to so remove them, the buildings shall revert to the state and may be resold as provided in subdivisions 1 or 2.

Subd. 5. **Disposition of proceeds.** The proceeds from the sale of any such buildings or improvements located on lands held by the state in trust for the taxing districts, shall be deposited in the forfeited tax fund of the county and shall be distributed in the same manner as if the parcel of land on which the buildings or improvements were situated had been sold. The proceeds from the sale of any buildings or improvements on lands held by the state free of any trust for the taxing districts shall be remitted by the county auditor to the commissioner of conservation to be deposited in the state treasury in the fund to which the proceeds from the sale of the lands from which the buildings are removed would properly be credited.

[1945 c 465; 1947 c 181 s 1, 2, 3, 4]

375.20 QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO VOTE; BALLOT. When the county board is authorized to do any act, incur any debt, appropriate money for any purpose, or exercise any other power or authority, only when authorized to do so by a vote of the people, the question to be voted upon may be submitted at a special or any general election, by a resolution specifying the matter or question to be voted upon; and, if it is to authorize the appropriation of money, creation of a debt, or levy of a tax, shall state the amount thereof. Notice of such election shall be given as in the case of special elections; and, if the question submitted be adopted, the board shall pass an appropriate resolution to carry the same into effect. In all such elections the form of the ballot shall be: "In favor of (here state the substance of the resolution to be submitted), Yes..... No," with a square opposite each of the words "yes" and "no," in one of which the voter shall make a cross to indicate his choice; provided, that the county board may call a special county election upon any such question to be held within 60 days after a resolution to that effect shall be adopted by the county board. Upon the adoption of such a

resolution the county auditor shall post and publish notices of such election, as required by section 205.11. The election shall be conducted and the returns canvassed in the manner prescribed by sections 205.06 to 205.16, so far as practicable.

[R. L. s. 450; 1931 c. 384] (786)

375.21 CONTRACTS OF COUNTY BOARDS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES. Subdivision 1. **Population less than 75,000.** In counties having less than 75,000 population, no contract for work or labor, or for the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or other property, or for the construction or repair of roads, bridges, or buildings, the estimated cost or value of which shall exceed \$1,000, shall be made by the county board without first advertising for bids or proposals in some newspaper of the county. If, for the purchase of property or for work and labor, two weeks' published notice that proposals will be received, stating the time and place, shall be given. If, for the construction or repair of roads, bridges, or buildings, three weeks' published notice shall be given and 15 days' posted notice in the town where the construction is to be done. The notice shall state the time and place of awarding the contract and contain a brief description of the work. Every such contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder and duly executed in writing, and the person to whom the same is awarded shall give a sufficient bond to the board for its faithful performance. If no satisfactory bid is received, the board may readvertise. Every contract made without compliance with the provisions of this section shall be void. In case of the destruction of roads or bridges by floods or other casualty, or of unforeseen injuries to machinery in or connected with public buildings, where the public interests would suffer by delay, contracts for repairs may be made without advertising for bids.

Subd. 2. **Population over 225,000.** In counties having a population of more than 225,000, no contract for the purchase of goods, materials, or supplies of any kind for the county, the estimated cost of which exceeds \$500, shall be made by the county board without giving at least seven days' published notice that bids or proposals will be received therefor, stating the time and place. All such contracts shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, approved by resolution of the board, and signed by its chairman. In case no satisfactory bid is received, the board may readvertise. In case of unforeseen breakages or injuries in or connected with public buildings, where the public interest would suffer by delay, contracts for repairs may be made without advertising for bids, but in such case the action of the board shall be recorded in its official proceedings.

Subd. 3. **Population over 75,000, less than 225,000.** In all counties having a population in excess of 75,000, and less than 225,000, no contract for the purchase of supplies, materials, or equipment, and no contract for work or labor or for the construction or repair of buildings, roads, bridges, or other permanent improvements, the estimated cost or value of which shall exceed \$500, shall be made by the county board, commission, or agency having charge of any activity supported, in whole or in part, by taxes upon the taxable property of such counties without first advertising for sealed bids which shall be solicited by public notice inserted at least once in the official newspaper of the county at least ten calendar days before the final date of submitting bids. All bids shall be opened in public at a specified time and place and shall be read aloud and tabulated. All such contracts shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, shall be duly executed in writing, and the person to whom the same is awarded shall give sufficient bond for its faithful performance, and it shall be approved by resolution of the board or commission and signed by its chairman. In case no satisfactory bid is received the board or commission may readvertise. Every contract made without compliance with the provisions of this subdivision shall be void; provided, that in case of an emergency arising from the breaking, damaging, or decay of any county property of any such county, that cannot be allowed to wait for the time required to advertise for bids as herein required, and where the public health and safety would suffer by the delay, contracts for the purchase or repair may be made without advertising for bids.

[R. L. s. 618, 619; 1919 c. 355; 1921 c. 376; 1923 c. 80; Ex 1934 c. 69; 1935 c. 17; 1939 c. 5; 1939 c. 246; 1947 c. 138 s. 1] (991, 992, 993-1)

375.22 EMERGENCY. In case of an emergency arising from breakage, damage, or decay in any county property of any county with a population of more than 225,000, that cannot be allowed to wait for the time required to advertise for bids, then such repairs may be made without advertising for bids; provided, such work

is authorized by a majority of the board of county commissioners, and such action shall be ratified and recorded in the official proceedings of the board at its next meeting.

[1905 c. 189; s. 1] (993)

375.23 ASSESSMENT AND ROAD DISTRICTS IN UNORGANIZED TERRITORY; ASSESSORS; OVERSEERS OF ROADS. The county board of any county, any part of which is not organized into towns, shall, at its meeting in January, in each year, divide such unorganized territory into one or more assessment and road districts and appoint a qualified person residing therein as assessor for each district and another as overseer of roads therein, each of whom shall possess the powers and perform the duties of a town assessor and town overseer of roads, respectively. Each shall hold his office for the term of one year. The compensation of any such overseer of roads shall be fixed by the county board, not exceeding \$4.00 per day. The compensation of any such assessor shall be fixed by the county board, not exceeding \$6.00 per day; provided, that the county board at its annual meeting may fix the compensation of the assessor on an annual basis, but such compensation when so fixed shall not exceed \$400 and shall not be less than \$75.00 in any one year and, in addition to the per diem or compensation fixed on an annual basis, the county board is authorized in its discretion to allow the assessor mileage at the rate of five cents per mile for each mile necessarily traveled in his assessment work.

[R. L. s. 442; 1909 c. 250 s. 1; 1945 c. 528 s. 1] (770)

375.24 APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND CONSTABLES IN CERTAIN UNORGANIZED TERRITORY. In any county of this state having no organized townships or in which the distance from any full and fractional unorganized township is more than 20 miles from the nearest town or municipality or county-seat, and which full and fractional unorganized township is entirely separated from the town or municipality or county-seat by water, the county board of such county may appoint one or more justices of the peace and one or more constables for such unorganized township, who shall have the same powers and duties as like officers in towns in the county.

Before entering upon their duties such officers shall give bond to the county in such penal sum as the county board shall determine, which bonds shall be otherwise conditioned as bonds for such officers in towns in the county. Such bonds shall be approved by the county board and filed with the clerk of the district court.

[1935 c. 85 ss. 1, 2; 1941 c. 234] (1081-1, 1081-2)

375.25 COUNTY BONDS MAY BE BOUGHT BY FUNDS IN TREASURY; RE-SALE. When any fund in the treasury of any county of this state having not more than 50,000 population is of such size that, in the opinion of the county board, the same would not be necessary to be expended for the purpose for which it was paid in within two or more years from the time of such determination, the board may thereupon authorize the auditor and treasurer of the county to purchase out of such fund any outstanding bonds of the county at not exceeding the face value thereof and accrued interest thereon to date of purchase and the bonds so purchased shall be kept by the treasurer as an asset of such fund. Any bonds so purchased may again be sold by the board at not less than the face value thereof when, in its judgment, it is deemed necessary to replenish the fund out of which such bonds were purchased.

[1907 c. 214 ss. 1, 2] (669-1) (669-2)

375.26 MAY ACCEPT GIFT. Any county in this state may receive by grant, gift, devise, or bequest, and take charge of, own, hold, control, invest, and administer free from taxation, in accordance with the terms of the trust or the conditions of the gift, any personal property, and any real property not to exceed 40 acres in any one county, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the county or as a park or recreation grounds, and in the encouragement, aid, and maintenance of the county cooperative work and education in agriculture and home economics, and in aid and furtherance of the object and purpose of the farm bureau association in the county. Such county may, from time to time, by resolution of the county board, appropriate from the county revenue fund such sum or sums as may by the board be deemed necessary to suitably maintain, improve, and care for the property for such use and purpose, not exceeding the sum of \$1,200 in any one year.

[1925 c. 13 s. 1; 1933 c. 59; 1939 c. 30; 1949 c. 481 s. 1] (669-12)

375.27 LIABILITIES, LIMITATIONS, AND CONDITIONS OF GIFTS OF REALTY. No county, by receiving any grant, gift, devise, or bequest of any property pursuant to section 375.26 and holding and managing the same, shall incur or be subject to any liability of any kind or nature growing out of the ownership or management thereof; except that limitations and conditions may be imposed by the deed of gift as to the use of the property donated and, if the gift is accepted by the county, it shall be the duty of the county to comply with the limitations and conditions so imposed.

[1925 c. 13 s. 2] (669-13)

375.273 ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS FOR CARE OF CEMETERIES. Subdivision 1. **Acceptance of donations.** The board of county commissioners of any county may accept money from private sources or from any person, firm, or corporation, including fiduciaries, donated for the perpetual care of cemeteries located either wholly or partly within the county, and use such funds for the purposes provided in subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **County board may expend funds in care of cemeteries.** Any such board of county commissioners may expend public funds under its control for the purpose of maintaining and improving, and otherwise permanently caring for cemeteries located either wholly or partly within the county, but any such expenditures shall be included in, and shall not be in excess of, any limitations on expenditures now fixed by law.

Subd. 3. **Donations deposited with county treasurer.** All money donated or made available for use by such board in permanently caring for such cemeteries, shall be paid into the county treasury, and kept in a separate fund and disbursed only as authorized by the county board.

[1945 c. 364]

375.28 REWARDS FOR CAPTURE OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF CRIME OR ESCAPING FROM JAIL. The county board of any county in this state shall have the power to offer and pay rewards in such amounts, not exceeding \$500 in any one case, as by it may be deemed advisable for the apprehension, arrest, or conviction, or for information leading to the apprehension, arrest, or conviction, of any person or persons accused of crime in any of the courts of the county or for the apprehension, or for information leading to the apprehension, of any prisoner escaped from any jail in the county.

[1925 c. 23] (669-15)

375.29 AWARD FOR MURDERER. When any county in this state, having a population of more than 200,000, and an assessed valuation of more than \$250,000,000, shall have, by resolution of its county board, authorized the payment of a reward for the recovery of the body of a murderer, such county board shall be authorized to pay such reward and claim therefor, provided that no such payment shall exceed the sum of \$200, and no such payment shall be made except by resolution of the county board. The county board, before allowing any such reward, shall require proper and sufficient legal proof of the fact evidencing the recovery of the body of any such murderer. Any seven taxpayers may appeal to the district court of such county from the action of the county board, as provided by law for appeal from the allowance or disallowance of any claim by the county board.

[1935 c. 234] (669-15½)

375.30 COUNTY BOARD MAY APPROPRIATE MONEY TO FIGHT RUST. In addition to the powers now conferred on it by law, the county board of any county shall have power to appropriate, annually, a sum of money, not exceeding \$500, for the purpose of eradicating and removing rust-producing bushes, including barberry and mahonia and excluding Japanese barberry. The money so appropriated to be expended in such manner as the county board may, by resolution, provide.

[1921 c. 142] (671)

375.31 COUNTIES MAY INDEMNIFY OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES. The county board of any county in this state is hereby authorized to indemnify its officers and employees for loss or expense arising or resulting from claims for bodily injuries, death or property damage made upon such officers or employees by reason of their operation of motor vehicles while in the performance of their official duties, and to defend, in the names of and on behalf of such officers and

employees, any suits brought against them to enforce claims, whether groundless or not, arising out of their operation of motor vehicles under such circumstances, and to compromise and settle any such claims or suits, and to pay the amount of such settlements or compromises or the amount of any judgments rendered against such officers or employees on any such claims without first requiring such officers or employees to pay the same.

[1931 c. 330 s. 1] (672-1)

375.32 COUNTY BOARD MAY PAY PREMIUMS. The county board, at its discretion, may pay the premiums on insurance policies insuring the individuals or groups of individuals referred to in section 375.31 against liability for injuries to person or property within the limitations of section 375.31, and such payment of insurance premiums shall in no way impose upon any county any liability whatsoever. Such insurance may be written in any mutual company authorized to do business in this state.

[1931 c. 330 s. 2] (672-2)

375.33 FREE COUNTY LIBRARIES. Subdivision 1. **Authorization and establishment, financing.** The county board of any county in this state is hereby authorized to establish and maintain, at the county seat or any other city to be determined by the board, a public library for the free use of all residents of the county, and may levy a tax in a sum which will be produced by not to exceed two mills on the dollar of all the taxable property outside of any city or village wherein a free public library is located, or which is already taxed for the support of any such library, the proceeds of which tax shall be known as the county library fund.

Subd. 2. **Petition; election.** If such county library be not otherwise established, the board, upon the petition of 100 freeholders of the county, shall submit the question of such establishment to the voters at the next county election. If a majority of the votes cast on such question be in the affirmative, the board shall establish the library and levy a yearly tax for its support, within the limits fixed by subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. **Contract with present library board.** If there is a free public library in the county, the board may contract with the board of directors of such library, upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between such boards, for the use of such library by all residents of the county, and may place under the supervision of such library board the county library fund, hereinbefore provided for, to be spent by such board for the extension of the free use of the library to all residents of the county. If there is more than one such free public library in the county the county board may contract with one or all of such library boards for such free service if in its judgment advisable.

Subd. 4. **Appointment of library board.** If there is no free library in such county available for use as a central library of the county system, the county board shall appoint a board of five directors; of the directors first appointed, two shall hold office for three years, two for two years, and one for one year from the third Saturday of July following their appointment the term of office being specified by the appointing power; and annually thereafter the board shall appoint one or two directors for the term of three years and until their successors qualify. The powers and duties of such board of directors shall be the same as those of a board of directors of any free public library in a city or village, and be governed by the provisions of sections 134.09 to 134.15.

[1919 c 445; 1943 c 94 s 1; 1947 c 64 s 1; 1949 c 266 s 1] (673)

375.34 OBSERVANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY. The county board of each county, in addition to all other powers now possessed by it, is hereby empowered and authorized to set apart, appropriate, and expend, or cause to be expended, in such manner as it may deem best, from the county revenue fund of such county, an amount not to exceed the sum of \$300 annually, for the purpose of aiding in the appropriate observance of Memorial Day on the thirtieth day of May, in each year, and in the annual commemoration of the noble and valiant deeds of the nation's soldier dead.

[1911 c. 109 s. 1] (762)

375.35 APPROPRIATION TO MILITARY SERVICE MEN'S ORGANIZATIONS MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES. The several county boards in this state are hereby empowered, in addition to the power now conferred on them by law, to appropriate annually not to exceed \$50 to each post of a recognized military service men's organization or society, holding charter from congress or incorporated in this state, organized and existing in their respective counties, for defraying the expenses of Memorial Day exercises.

[1921 c 233 s 1; 1927 c 407; 1949 c 120 s 1] (762-1)

375.36 COUNTY BOARD TO ESTABLISH SOLDIERS' REST. The board of county commissioners of any county in this state may purchase a plot of ground in any duly organized cemetery lying, in whole or in part, in the county, or in a county contiguous thereto, to be designated, set aside, and used exclusively as a soldiers' rest, and appropriate for the payment, embellishment, and upkeep thereof, and for the opening and the closing of graves therein, not to exceed the sum of \$1,000 in any one year. Any county in this state now having, or which may hereafter have, a population of not less than 150,000 may appropriate for such purposes not to exceed the sum of \$3,500 in any one year.

The county board is authorized to use such portion of the appropriation as it may deem necessary for compensation and expenses of an agent, who shall be a veteran, to care for such burial ground and to issue permits for burial therein.

[1917 c. 60 s. 1; 1923 c. 335 s. 1; 1937 c. 178 s. 1; 1945 c. 257 s. 1] (763)

375.37 "SOLDIERS' REST" USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLDIERS, SAILORS, MARINES AND WAR NURSES. Any plot of ground secured and designated as a "soldiers' rest" shall be used exclusively for the interment of deceased soldiers, sailors, marines, and war nurses of the United States, without charge for space therein.

[1917 c. 60 s. 2; 1933 c. 336; 1937 c. 178 s. 2; 1945 c. 145 s. 1] (764)

375.38 VIOLATION A MISDEMEANOR. Any person interring or causing to be interred a body, or make a charge for a burial lot in such soldiers' rest, except as provided by section 375.37, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1917 c. 60 s. 3; 1937 c. 178 s. 3] (765)

375.383 PUBLICATION OF WAR RECORDS. The board of county commissioners of any county may, by resolution, authorize the compilation, printing, and distribution of a book containing the war records, and, if desired by the board, pictures of residents of the county who served in the armed forces of the United States or any of its allies during the second world war, and such other information relative to war activities or services as the board deems desirable.

The board may make a tax levy in a sufficient amount to carry out the provisions of this section, which levy may be in addition to all other levies now authorized by law.

[1945 c. 571]

375.39 CHANGE OF NAME OF COUNTY; ORDER OF COUNTY BOARD. The county board of any county in this state may change the name of the county upon a petition signed by a number of the legal voters of the county equal to 55 per cent of the votes cast at the last preceding general election, and shall adopt the new name suggested in such petition as the official name of the county. Such petition shall be filed with the county auditor and it shall be the duty of the auditor thereupon to give public notice of the filing of such petition by publishing the same in the official newspaper of the county, and the petition shall be taken up and considered at the next meeting of the board held not less than 30 days after the date of such notice.

The prayer of the petition being granted, the board shall make a formal order to that effect, which shall be filed with the auditor, and thereupon the official name of the county shall be the one so adopted.

[1905 c. 23 ss. 1, 2] (674, 675)

375.40 COUNTY BOARD MAY LICENSE EXHIBITIONS AND SHOWS. The board of county commissioners of any county of this state is hereby authorized to license and regulate itinerant shows, carnivals, circuses, endurance contests, and

exhibitions of any nature whatsoever, except those prohibited by section 616.40. Sections 375.40 to 375.42 shall not apply to shows, carnivals, circuses, contests, and exhibitions held within the incorporated limits of a village, borough, or city.

The fee for such license shall be fixed by the board of county commissioners in such amount as it shall deem advisable.

The board of county commissioners may require, as a condition to the granting of such license, the posting of a penal bond in such amount as it shall determine.

Application for such license shall be made on such form as the board of county commissioners shall determine. Upon the approval of such application and the payment of the license fee and the posting of such bond as may be required, the county auditor shall issue the license.

[1937 c. 331 ss. 1, 2, 3, 4] (10536-11, 10536-12, 10536-13, 10536-14)

375.41 TAKING PART IN UNLICENSED EXHIBITION OR SHOW A MISDEMEANOR. Any person, partnership, association, or corporation who conducts, or takes part in, any itinerant show, carnival, circus, endurance contest, or exhibition not licensed, as provided in section 375.40, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[1937 c. 331 s. 5] (10536-15)

375.42 EXCEPTIONS. The provisions of sections 375.40 and 375.41 shall not apply to any itinerant show, carnival, circus, endurance contest, or exhibition held in connection with any agricultural association fair.

[1937 c. 331 s. 6] (10536-16)