

No. 391

AN ACT

Appropriating excess moneys in the general sinking fund for payment into the general fund of the State Treasury, and dedicating present revenues payable into the sinking fund, and accumulations on the moneys in the sinking fund, for payment into the State School Fund.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That all moneys in the general sinking fund of the Commonwealth, in excess of the sum of one hundred fifty-eight thousand three hundred twenty dollars and twenty-six cents (\$158,320.26), which is necessary for the payment of bonds and obligations of the Commonwealth, which have never been presented for redemption, are hereby appropriated from the sinking fund for payment into the State School Fund and credited by the State Treasurer as income. All moneys which are now by law payable in the general sinking fund of the Commonwealth shall, after the passage of this act, be payable into the State School Fund and credited by the State Treasurer as income. All interest accumulating on the moneys remaining in the general sinking fund shall, after the passage of this act, be payable into the State School Fund and credited by the State Treasurer as income. The Auditor General and State Treasurer shall, after the passage of this act, transfer all such excess moneys now held in the sinking fund into the State School Fund and credited by the State Treasurer as income; and from time to time pay the interest accumulating on the moneys remaining in the general sinking fund into the State School Fund and credited by the State Treasurer as income.

General sinking fund.

Excess funds appropriated into State School Fund.

Section 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven.

Effective date.

All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Repeal.

APPROVED—The 4th day of May, A. D. 1927.

JOHN S. FISHER

No. 392

AN ACT

Providing for granting State aid to school districts of the third and fourth class, for the purpose of assisting in rebuilding destroyed school buildings, or securing sites, or consolidating and constructing school buildings in third or fourth class districts; and establishing a fund in the State Treasury for such purposes, to be known as the School Building Aid Fund.

Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That whenever any school building in a district of the third or fourth class shall have been destroyed by fire, flood, wind storm, mine cave, or other casualty, and the school district is not able

School districts of third and fourth classes.

Assistance in building school buildings.

Application to State Council of Education.

Examination by State Council of Education.

Certificate to State Superintendent.

Warrant to be issued.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Temporary assistance.

Itemized statement of costs.

to rebuild such destroyed building from current revenues or to borrow sufficient money for such purposes, or whenever the board of school directors of any school district of the third or fourth class shall desire to construct a new school building, to purchase a site or sites, or to consolidate any number of one-room school buildings, and they are not able to do so from current revenues or to borrow sufficient money for such purposes, such district may apply to the State Council of Education for financial assistance to rebuild such destroyed schools, or to purchase sites, or to erect new buildings for consolidated schools.

Section 2. Whenever any district of the third or fourth class shall apply for assistance for purposes enumerated in section one of this act, the State Council of Education shall examine thoroughly the financial condition of such school districts, and the necessity of rebuilding, securing sites, consolidating, or constructing any such school building or buildings, and, if satisfied that the case is a proper one for assistance, shall certify such fact to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and recommend that aid be granted, and specify the amount thereof.

Section 3. Upon receiving such certificate and recommendation from the State Council of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is hereby authorized to issue such warrant or warrants, drawn on the State Treasurer in favor of the treasurer of the school district to which aid shall have been granted, as shall be equal to the amount recommended by the State Council of Education: Provided, (1) That the amount of aid granted to any school district shall not exceed fifty per centum of the total cost of grounds and the reconstructed or new buildings: Provided (2) That no warrant shall be issued for such aid until the site and plans for such building or buildings shall have been approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction: And provided, (3) That such warrant or warrants for State aid may be issued, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, from time to time as the work of building or rebuilding progresses:

And provided further, That the Superintendent of Public Instruction, upon receiving such certificate and recommendations from the State Council of Education, is hereby authorized to make advancements, out of the "School Building Aid Fund," to aid school districts temporarily in need, in an amount not to exceed fifty per centum of the total cost of grounds and the reconstructed or new buildings, and to deduct said advancements from any appropriations due said district, upon such terms as the districts and the State Council of Education shall agree.

Section 4. Before the final payment of the sum granted is made to any district treasurer, he shall forward to the Superintendent of Public Instruction an itemized statement, covering the total cost of grounds and building or buildings, which itemized statement shall be made under

oath or affirmation, on a blank prepared by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Section 5. The sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) is hereby specifically appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction, to be paid into the "School Building Aid Fund," and no moneys shall be drawn out of this fund except for the purposes specified in this act. Appropriation.

APPROVED—The 4th day of May, A. D. 1927.

JOHN S. FISHER

No. 393

A JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for the appointment of a commission by the Governor of this Commonwealth for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon both the geologic formation and strength of bituminous coal, for the purpose of recommending necessary legislation to safeguard the health and lives of persons employed in the bituminous coal mines of Pennsylvania, and for the protection and preservation of property connected therewith, in the matter of providing safe and practicable thickness of barrier pillars between adjoining mining properties, and making an appropriation to meet the expenses of said commission.

BITUMINOUS MINES

Section 1. Be it resolved, &c., That the Governor of this Commonwealth be and is hereby authorized to appoint seven competent citizens, of whom four shall be recognized mining engineers, one shall be a hydraulic engineer, one a geologist of recognized standing in his profession, and one a State mine inspector from the bituminous coal mining district, to investigate and report upon barrier pillars in the bituminous coal region. Commission to be appointed.

Section 2. The duties of the said commission shall be to ascertain from investigation the geologic formation and strength of bituminous coals in this Commonwealth and determine the practicable and safe thicknesses of barrier pillars to be established jointly between adjoining mining properties, and prepare a bill for presentation to the Legislature as it shall deem necessary to protect the welfare and interests of employes, operators, and property owners. Duties of commission.

Section 3. That said commission shall report the result of their labor to the Legislature, and shall convene in one thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine, on or before the first day of February of said year, or at an earlier period, if, in their judgment, the situation should demand urgency. They shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses. Report.

Section 4. That said commissioners shall meet and organize within thirty days of their appointment, and elect a chairman and a secretary, and as promptly as Expenses.

Organization.