

CHAPTER 70.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

H. F. 464.

AN ACT to repeal sections seven hundred twenty-nine-a (729-a), five hundred ninety-two-a (592-a) and seven forty-one-n (741-n), supplement to the code, 1907, and to enact substitutes therefor; to amend sections four hundred twenty-two (422), supplement to the code, 1907; and section twenty-eight hundred six (2806) of the code; all relating to the benefits of free public libraries and to confer additional powers upon boards of library trustees, township trustees, boards of county supervisors, boards of school directors, and city and town councils, in relation thereto.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Repeal—powers of library trustees. Section 729-a of the supplement to the code, 1907, is hereby repealed and the following is enacted as a substitute therefore [therefor]:

“The board of library trustees of any free public library shall have power to contract with any school corporation, the township trustees of any civil township, the board of supervisors of the county in which said library is situated, and the council of any city or town, whether such school corporation, civil township, or city or town be in the same county in which such library is situated or in an adjoining county, for the free use of said library by the residents of such school corporation, civil township, county, city or town, by one or more of the following methods in whole or in part:

First: By lending the books of such library to such residents on the same terms and conditions as to residents of the city or town in which said library is situated.

Second: By the establishment of depositories of books of such library to be loaned to such residents at stated times and places.

Third: By the transportation of books of such library by wagon or other conveyance for lending the same to such residents at stated times and places.

Fourth: By the establishment of branch libraries for lending books to such residents.

Such contracts, unless otherwise provided therein, shall remain in force for five years, unless sooner terminated by a majority vote of the electors of such school corporation, civil township, county, city or town.”

SEC. 2. Repeal—township trustees—power to contract for use of public libraries—special fund. Section 592-a of the supplement to the code, 1907, is hereby repealed and the following is enacted as a substitute therefore [therefor]:

“The township trustees of any civil township shall have power to contract with any free public library for the free use of such library by the residents of said township, as provided in section one of this act and to pay such library the amount agreed therefor, and to levy annually, at the April meeting, a tax not exceeding one mill on the dollar on the taxable property of the township, the fund derived from which shall constitute a special fund to be known as the library fund, and shall be used exclusively for the purposes contemplated in this section. When a majority of the resident tax payers, as shown by the last preceding assessment list of such civil township, petition the trustees thereof in writing to enter into such contract, and such library gives

its written consent thereto, it shall be the duty of such trustees to execute such contract. When any such contract is made, whether on petition of the resident tax payers or without such petition, a tax in an amount sufficient to pay such library the consideration agreed upon, not exceeding one mill on the dollar, shall be annually levied by such trustees and their successors, until such contract is terminated by its own provisions or by a majority vote of the electors of such township."

SEC. 3. Repeal—city or town councils—power to contract for use of public libraries. Section 741-n of the supplement to the code, 1907, is hereby repealed and the following is enacted as a substitute therefore [therefor]:

"The council of any city or town in which there is no free public library shall have power to contract with any free public library for the free use thereof by the residents of such city or town, as provided in section one of this act, and to pay such library such an amount as may be agreed upon therefor, and to levy annually on the taxable property of such city or town a tax not exceeding one mill on the dollar to be used exclusively for such purpose. When a majority of the resident tax payers, as shown by the last preceding assessment list of such city or town, petition the council thereof in writing to enter into such contract, and such library gives its written consent thereto, it shall be the duty of such council to execute such contract, and when any such contract is made, whether on petition of the resident tax payers or without such petition, a tax in amount sufficient to pay such library the consideration agreed upon, not exceeding one mill on the dollar, shall be annually levied by such council until such contract is terminated."

SEC. 4. Powers specified. Section 422 of the supplement to the code, 1907, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following:

"24. To contract with any free public library in the county for the free use of the books thereof by the residents of the county outside of the cities and towns therein, as provided in section one of this act which contract when made shall supersede all contracts made by townships or school corporations, and to levy annually on the taxable property of the county outside of cities and towns a tax of not more than one mill on the dollar to be used exclusively for that purpose."

SEC. 5. School taxes—board of directors—power to contract for use of public libraries. Section 2806 of the code is hereby amended by adding thereto the following:

"The board of directors of any school corporation in which there is no free public library shall have power to contract with any free public library for the free use of such library by the residents of such school district as provided in section one of this act and to pay such library the amount agreed therefor, and to certify annually a tax not exceeding one mill on the dollar of the taxable property of such district, to be used exclusively therefor; and during the existence of such contract a tax sufficient to pay such library the consideration agreed upon, not exceeding one mill on the dollar, shall be certified annually by such board. Each school corporation making such contract shall, during the existence of such contract, be relieved from the requirements of sec. 2823-n of the supplement to the code, 1907. This section shall not be construed to apply in townships where a contract is in existence under the provisions of sec. 2 of this act."

Approved April 16 A. D. 1913.