

CHAPTER 217—H. F. No. 108

An act relating to free county libraries; amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Sections 134.12, 375.33.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 134.12, is amended to read:

134.12 Benefits of library. *Subdivision 1. Non-residents to receive.* Any board of directors may admit to the benefits of its library persons not residing within the municipality under regulations and upon conditions as to payment and security *prescribed by it.*

Subd. 2. Loan of books, contracts. The board may contract with the *county board* of the county in which the library is situated or *the county board* of any adjacent county, or with the governing body of any neighboring town, city, or village, to loan books of the library, either singly or in traveling libraries, to residents of the county, town, city, or village.

Subd. 3. Use of free public library. Any such county board or governing body may contract with the board of directors of any free public library for the use of the library by the residents of the county, town, city, or village who do not have the use of a free library upon the terms and conditions as those granted residents of the city or village where the library is located, and to pay such board of directors an annual amount therefor. Any such county board or governing body may establish a library fund by levying an annual tax of not more than two mills on the dollar of all taxable property which is not already taxed for the support of any free public library and all taxable property which is situated outside of any city or village in which is situated a free public library.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 375.33, is amended to read:

375.33 Free county libraries. *Subdivision 1. Creating, financing.* The county board of any county may establish and maintain, at a location determined by the board, a public library for the free use of residents of the county, and

may levy *an annual tax of not more than two mills on the dollar of all taxable property which is not already taxed for the support of any free public library and all taxable property which is situated outside of any city or village in which is situated a free public library.* The proceeds of *this tax shall be placed in the county library fund.*

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

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

Subd. 4. **Library board.** If no free *public library in the county is available for use as a central library of the county system, the county board shall appoint a library board of five directors. The term of office of these directors is three years, and each director shall hold office until his successor is appointed and qualifies.* 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, *as specified by the county board; and thereafter the directors shall be appointed for a term of three years. This board of directors shall have the powers and duties of a board of directors of any free public library in a city or village and shall be governed by the provisions of sections 134.09, 134.11 to 134.15.*

Approved April 3, 1951.