

**A Bill to Be Entitled an Act to Validate the Formation and Incorporation of Epsom School District in Franklin and Vance Counties and to Empower the Board of Trustees of Epsom School District to Call an Election and to Issue School Bonds**

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the formation, creation and incorporation of Epsom School District, comprising contiguous portions of Franklin and Vance Counties be, and the same is validated, ratified, approved and confirmed and said Epsom School District as at present constituted and defined is declared a body corporate by the name and style of Epsom School District, with all the authority, rights and powers and privileges and the same plan of government conferred upon other joint school districts by and under the provisions of Article 17 of Chapter 136 of the Public Laws of North Carolina, Session of 1923.

Section 2. That in addition to the powers mentioned above the Board of Trustees of Epsom School District, for the purpose of erecting or otherwise providing adequate public school buildings or other necessary school property and equipment for the maintenance of the public school or schools of said district is hereby empowered and authorized to call a special election, to be held in said district at such time and place as said board may designate after the ratification of this act, to ascertain the will of the people of said district upon the question of issuing bonds for the purpose or purposes above set forth, not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars, and the levying of a sufficient ad valorem tax for the payment of said bonds and the interest thereon.

Section 3. The said Board of Trustees shall designate the polling place, appoint the registrar and two pollholders who shall constitute the judges of election, and the said Board shall canvass and judicially determine the result of said election when the returns have been filed with them by the officers holding the election and shall record such determination on their records. The notice of the election shall be given by publication at least three times in some newspaper published or circulated in the territory it shall set forth the boundary lines of the district and the purpose of the election. The first publication shall be at least thirty days before the election. A new registration of the qualified voters of the territory shall be ordered, and notice of said new registration shall be deemed to be sufficiently given by publication once in some newspaper published or circulated in said district at least thirty days before the close of the registration books. This notice of registration may be considered one of the three notices required of the election. Such published notice of registration shall state the days on which the books will be opened for registration of voters and the place or places on which they will be open on Saturdays. The books of such new registration shall close on the second Saturday before the election. The Saturday before the election shall be challenge day and except as otherwise provided in this act such election shall be held in accordance with the law governing general elections. At the election those who are in favor of the issuing of such bonds and the levy and collection of the taxes necessary for the payment of said bonds shall vote a ticket on which shall be printed or written the words "For School Bonds" and those who oppose shall vote a ticket on which shall be printed or written the words "Against School Bonds." All other details of said election shall be fixed by the said board and the expenses of holding and conducting the election shall be provided by the said board out of the local tax of said district.

Section 4. If a majority of the qualified voters of said district shall vote in favor of the issuance of said bonds then the said board of trustees shall have power to issue the said bonds which bonds shall be issued in the name of the Epsom School District and shall be issued in such form and demonstration and with such provisions as to time, place and medium of payment of principal and interest as the said board may determine, subject to the limitations and restrictions of this act. The bonds shall be serial bonds and shall so mature that the principal amount of the issue shall be payable in annual installments or series, beginning not more than three years after date of the bonds of such issue and ending not more than thirty years after such date. No such installment shall be more than two and one-half times as great in amount as the smallest prior installment of same issue. The bonds shall bear interest at the rate of not more than six per cent per annum, payable annually and may have interest coupons attached, and may be registrable as to principal or as to both principal and interest. They shall be signed by the chairman of the said board of trustees and the seal of the district shall be affixed to or impressed on each bond and attested by the secretary of said board; and the interest coupons shall bear the printed lithographed or etched facsimile signature of such chairman. The delivery of the bonds, signed as aforesaid by officers in office at the time of such signing shall be valid notwithstanding any changes in office occurring after such signing.

Section 5. Said bonds shall be sold by the Board of Trustees of said Epsom School District by and with the approval of the County Superintendents of Public Instruction of the counties of Franklin and Vance, after such advertisement as the said county Superintendents shall deem proper and necessary, but said bonds shall not be sold for less than par and accrued interest.

Section 6. The proceeds derived from the sale of said bonds shall be turned over to the Treasurer of the County School Fund of the county in which the school building is or is to be located and this shall be held as a separate fund by the treasurer and placed to the credit of the district and shall be disbursed or paid out by said treasurer upon order or voucher signed by the chairman and secretary of the board of trustees of Epsom School District and countersigned by the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the County in which the school building or buildings is or is to be erected for the purpose or purposes set forth in this act.

Section 7. In the event the issue of said bonds is authorized by the voters as above provided and when the same are issued the boards of County Commissioners of the counties, Franklin and Vance are hereby authorized and directed to levy annually a special tax, ad valorem, on all taxable property within their respective counties situated within the said Epsom School District, sufficient to pay the principal and interest of said bonds as such become due. Such special tax shall be in addition to all other taxes authorized to be levied in such county or district. The taxes provided for in this section shall be collected by the officer or officers collecting the special taxes in said district and paid over by him or them to the treasurer of the county School Fund of the County in which the school building, or buildings, is or is to be located, and shall be held as a separate fund by said treasurer in the payment of said bonds and interest as the same become due and the said bonds or interest coupons shall be, when paid by said treasurer, vouchers in accounting for the disbursement of said taxes so turned over to him.

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Section 8. Said Board of Trustees of Epsom School District are hereby authorized and directed to adopt a corporate seal of such design as it may deem fit and proper.

Section 9. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with this act are, insofar as they may affect this act, hereby repealed.

Section 10. This act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification.

**A Bill to Be Entitled an Act Prohibiting the County Board of Education or the Board of Commissioners for the County of Franklin, or the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Louisburg, Said County, Pledging the Credit of Said County or City Without First Submitting the Question to the Qualified Voters Thereof**  
The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:  
Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for the county board of education or the board of commissioners for the county of Franklin of the board of aldermen of the town of Louisburg, said county to pledge credit of or issue bonds whereby the said county, town, or any township or district in said county, is pledged for any purpose other than to pay existing floating indebtedness of said county, town, township or district, heretofore incurred for necessary expenses of said county, town, township, or district, without first submitting the question of pledging the credit and issuing such bonds to the qualified voters of said county, town, township or district, at an election to be held as hereinafter provided: Provided, however, that this act shall not prevent said board of education borrowing sufficient money in anticipation of the collection of taxes to operate the public schools of said county the total amount of the money so borrowed shall not exceed eighty per cent of the taxes levied for public schools for the current fiscal year in which such loan is made and the amount so borrowed shall be repaid out of the taxes levied for such fiscal year: Provided further, that the board of commissioners for the county of Franklin or the board of aldermen of the town of Louisburg without such election, may borrow money to pay necessary current expenses of said county or said town, as the case may be, in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied by said board of commissioners or by said board of aldermen during any fiscal year not exceeding eighty per cent of the total amount of taxes levied by said county or town and uncollected during such fiscal year, and may issue notes or other evidences of indebtedness for the amount so borrowed, and the money so borrowed shall be repaid by said board of commissioners or said board of aldermen out of the taxes collected for said fiscal year by said county or town; Provided, that in case of any emergency such as the loss of public buildings or other property by fire, flood or act of God, the said board of commissioners and said board of aldermen, respectively, may borrow money and issue notes or bonds of said county and town, respectively, to meet the necessary expense of such emergency: Provided further, that nothing herein shall restrict or abrogate the right of the board of commissioners to contract or pay any indebtedness for necessary expenses, as provided by the general law.  
Section 2. That other than the weekly pay roll of said town, all bills, accounts or claims against said county, town or board of education shall be presented before payment to the board of commissioners of said county or to the board of aldermen of said town or to the said county board of education as the case may be, at a regular meeting of such boards, and shall be considered and approved by a majority of the board to which said bill, claim or account is presented before the same shall be paid, and no bill, claim or account shall be paid except upon the proper warrant issued for the payment thereof.  
Section 3. The said board of aldermen shall not contract to spend nor spend the money of said town in violation of the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one, as now or hereafter amended.  
Section 4. The said board of commissioners for the county of Franklin shall enter into no contract concerning the purchase of property or supplies for said county for an amount exceeding five hundred dollars without first advertising for bids for the same by posting notice thereof for ten days at the county courthouse door.  
Section 5. If a resolution of said board of commissioners or of said board of aldermen or of said board of education provides for the issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness for a purpose other than the payment of necessary expenses of said county, town, or township, or district, the approval of a majority of the qualified voters of the county, town, township, or district as required by the constitution of North Carolina, shall be necessary in order to make the resolution operative. Whenever the taking effect of a resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness is dependent upon the approval of the resolution by the voters of said county, town, township or district, the governing body may submit the resolution to the voters at an election to be held not more than six months after the passage of said resolution. The governing body may call a special election for that purpose, or may submit the resolution to the voters at the regular county or town election next succeeding the passage of the resolution, but no such special election shall be held within one month before or after a regular election. Several resolutions or other matters may be voted upon at the same election.  
Section 6. The said board of commissioners or said board of aldermen in their discretion may order a new registration of the voters for such election, the books for such new registration shall remain open in each precinct or ward from nine a. m. to six p. m. on each day except Sundays and holidays for three weeks beginning on a Monday morning and ending on the second Saturday evening before the election. A registrar and two judges of election shall be appointed by the board of commissioners or the board of aldermen, as the case may be, for each precinct or ward: Provided, that the books shall be open at the polling places on each Saturday during the registration period. Sufficient notice shall be deemed to have been given of such new registration and of the appointment of the election officers if a notice thereof be published at least thirty days before the closing of the registration books, stating the hours and days for registration. It shall not be necessary to specify in said notice the places for registration. In case the registrar shall fail or refuse for any cause to perform his duties, it shall be lawful for the clerk of said board of commissioners or said board of aldermen, as the case may be, to appoint another person to perform such duties, and no notice of such appointment shall be necessary.  
Section 7. A notice of the election shall be deemed sufficiently published if published once not later than twenty days before election. Such notice shall state the maximum amount of the proposed bonds and the purpose thereof, and the fact that a tax will be levied for the payment thereof. The date of the election shall be stated therein.  
Section 8. A ballot or ballots shall be furnished to each qualified voter at said election, which ballots may contain the words "For the resolution authorizing \_\_\_\_\_ dollars

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