

Amendment No. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2118

House Bill No. 2129*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-501, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

The general assembly recognizes and reaffirms the importance of fostering appreciation among the citizens of this state for protecting and preserving for future generations the heritage of hunting and fishing in this state. Therefore, to aid in promoting access to, and participation in, licensed hunting and fishing in this state, there is created a fund known as the "lifetime sportsman endowment fund". The lifetime sportsman endowment fund must be administered and funded in accordance with this part.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-502, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) The lifetime sportsman endowment fund is an irrevocable trust for the exclusive benefit of lifetime sportsman license holders, as prescribed in a trust instrument approved by the trustees, to be administered by the state treasurer. The attorney general and reporter shall approve the terms of the trust instrument.

(b)

(1) The trustees of the trust are:

(A) The commissioner of finance and administration or the commissioner's designee;

(B) The state treasurer or the treasurer's designee; and



0512859544



014648

(C) The executive director of the wildlife resources agency or the executive director's designee.

(2) The state treasurer, or the treasurer's designee, shall serve as the chair of the trustees and shall preside over all meetings and proceedings of the trustees.

(c) In addition to the powers granted by this part, the trustees have the powers necessary or convenient to carry out this part and the purposes and objectives of the trust, including, but not limited to, the following express powers:

(1) To invest any funds of the trust in any instrument, obligation, security, or property that constitutes legal investments, as provided in the investment policy adopted pursuant to § 70-1-504(a);

(2) To contract for the provision of all or any part of the services necessary for the management and operation of the trust;

(3) To contract with financial consultants, auditors, and other consultants as necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this part; and

(4) To prepare financial reports, including financial statements, following the close of each fiscal year relative to the activities of the trust. The statements and reports must be prepared in accordance with the accounting standards of the governmental accounting standards board.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-503, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

The trust must be initially funded by a deposit of all of the assets held in the wildlife management endowment fund previously created in accordance with § 70-1-501 as such section existed prior to the effective date of this act. In addition to this initial funding, the lifetime sportsman endowment fund trust must consist of the following assets deposited to or accrued in the fund:

(1) The proceeds from the sale of lifetime sportsman licenses;

(2) The proceeds from cash donations or donations of property converted or to be converted to cash;

(3) Such other sources as may be deemed appropriate, including sources that may be specified by law; and

(4) Income derived from fund investments.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-504, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a) The trustees shall adopt, in writing, an investment policy or policies authorizing how assets in the trust may be invested. The trust may invest in any security or investment in which the Tennessee consolidated retirement system is permitted to invest; provided, that investments by the trust must be governed by the investment policies and guidelines adopted by the trustees in accordance with this part. The trustees shall delegate to the state treasurer the responsibility for the investment and reinvestment of trust funds in accordance with the policies and guidelines established by the trustees.

(b)

(1) The corpus of the trust shall not be expended for any purpose. For purposes of this part, the corpus of the trust means those assets described in § 70-1-503(1)-(3) and the initial deposit of assets held in the wildlife management endowment fund previously created in accordance with § 70-1-501 as such section existed prior to the effective date of this act, less income existing at the time of the initial deposit.

(2) The income received and accruing from the investments of the trust must be spent only for the exclusive benefit of lifetime sportsman license holders, as prescribed in the trust instrument, and to pay the reasonable expenses incurred in administering and investing the trust assets. Income from the trust means all earnings from the trust's investment portfolios from whatever source

derived, including, but not limited to, interest, dividends, realized capital gains or losses, and any income previously applied to the corpus of the trust.

(c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all assets, income, and distributions of the trust must be protected against the claims of creditors of the state, plan administrators, and plan participants, and are not subject to execution, attachment, garnishment, the operation of bankruptcy, the insolvency laws or other process whatsoever, and any assignment thereof is not enforceable in any court.

(d) The funds transferred to the trust may be commingled with, co-invested with, and invested or reinvested with other assets transferred to the trust. All or a portion of the trust may be invested, reinvested, and co-invested with other funds, not a part of the trust, held by the state treasurer, including, but not limited to, assets of the Tennessee consolidated retirement system and the state pooled investment fund established pursuant to title 9, chapter 4, part 6. The state treasurer shall account for such trust funds in one (1) or more separate accounts in accordance with this section and other law.

(e) The trust has the powers, privileges, and immunities of a corporation, and all of its business must be transacted, all of its funds invested, and all of its cash and securities and other property held in trust for the purpose for which received.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-505, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

The trustees shall prepare annual financial reports following the close of each fiscal year relative to the activities of the trust fund. The annual reports, books, accounts, and financial records of the trust fund are subject to audit by the comptroller of the treasury.

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-506, is deleted.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act that

can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end, the provisions of this act are severable.

SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Amendment No. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2868

House Bill No. 2457*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-6-202, is amended by deleting the section and substituting the following:

(a) Any firearm, other hunting device, or equipment used in violation of §§ 70-4-116 – 70-4-118 may be seized and held for evidence by the agency. As used in this section, "equipment" does not include a self-propelled vehicle or a vehicle propelled or drawn by a self-propelled vehicle, wherever operated.

(b) When a seizure of property under subsection (a) results in an arrest and the person charged with the offense is found to be not guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction, the property must be returned by the trial court.

(c) The court or jury that determines whether a violation of § 70-4-116, § 70-4-117, or § 70-4-118 has occurred shall also determine, in the same manner as provided in § 70-6-201, whether property seized pursuant to this section is contraband and should be forfeited to the state.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.



0073665822



014084

Amendment No. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1990

House Bill No. 2033*

by inserting the following as a new section immediately preceding the last section and renumbering the last section accordingly:

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 205, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

Notwithstanding this chapter to the contrary, prior to approval of financing on a leasehold owned by this state or a local government, but leased to a privately owned entity as described in § 68-205-102(2)(C), the consent of this state or the local government must be obtained. A change to the leasehold must be approved by this state or the local government, as applicable. This state or a local government must be held harmless if the privately owned entity to which the leasehold is leased defaults on a financing agreement for a leasehold changed in accordance with this section.



0813680502



014093

Amendment No. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2859

House Bill No. 2768*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-1-306, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

() When conducting sales of timber harvested from agency property, the agency shall comply with all processes followed by the department of agriculture, division of forestry for those sales.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.



0625240538



014135

Amendment No. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2525

House Bill No. 2516*

by deleting all language after the caption and substituting instead the following:

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long suffered from frequent flooding across the State that causes average annual damages of \$243 million; and

WHEREAS, the devastating floods in 2021 claimed the lives of twenty-nine Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, it is shown that investments of resilience will yield a 12:1 return for taxpayers in avoided losses; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly's intent is to be good stewards of State resources by providing effective expertise and resources to towns, cities, and counties in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the intent of this bill is to ensure the governor's administration develops and implements a comprehensive, watershed-based statewide flood resilience plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan should be regularly reviewed and used to ensure a clear and consistent approach to supporting communities in addressing flood risk across the State; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 69, is amended by adding the following as a new chapter:

69-12-101.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Agency" means the Tennessee emergency management agency;



0963765402



014890

(2) "Local governmental entity" means a governing body, board, commission, committee, or department of a municipality, county, or other political subdivision of this state; and

(3) "Task force" means the Tennessee flood resilience and community preparedness task force.

69-12-102.

(a) There is created the Tennessee flood resilience and community preparedness task force, which is responsible for identifying current and future flood risks to the state and its citizens, prioritizing eligible projects for flood mitigation, coordinating between existing state agencies to identify funding opportunities and efficiencies, and formulating policy reforms to address underlying and long-term risk conditions and protect assets and lives across the state.

(b) The task force is attached to the agency through its mitigation and recovery division for administrative, fiscal, and personnel purposes only, and is to be operationally independent from the agency.

69-12-103.

(a) The task force is chaired by the director of the agency, or the director's designee, and composed of no more than twenty-five (25) members, nor less than the following nineteen (19) members:

(1) The director of the agency, or the director's designee;

(2) The representative from the office of the governor, or the representative's designee;

(3) The commissioner of environment and conservation, or the commissioner's designee;

(4) The commissioner of economic and community development, or the commissioner's designee;

(5) The commissioner of transportation, or the commissioner's designee;

- (6) The commissioner of commerce and insurance, or the commissioner's designee;
- (7) The commissioner of finance and administration, or the commissioner's designee;
- (8) The commissioner of agriculture, or the commissioner's designee;
- (9) Two (2) members of the senate to be appointed by the speaker of the senate;
- (10) Two (2) members of the house of representatives to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (11) Seven (7) public members, as follows:
 - (A) Two (2) representatives from academic institutions, as designated by the chair;
 - (B) Two (2) representatives from non-government organizations, as designated by the chair; and
 - (C) No less than one (1) representative of a local jurisdiction from each of this state's three (3) grand divisions, as designated by the chair.

(b) In addition to the members set forth in subsection (a), the chair may add members to the task force as deemed necessary to effectuate the goals and purposes of the task force, including representatives from appropriate federal agencies and private sector stakeholders.

(c)

- (1) The chair shall call the first meeting of the task force.
- (2) The task force shall fix a time and place for regular meetings and shall meet no less than once quarterly. Except for the first meeting of the task force called in accordance with subdivision (c)(1), all other meetings of the task force, including emergency meetings, are held at the call of the chair with written notice given to all task force members.

(3) The task force may conduct regular or special meetings by electronic or other means pursuant to § 8-44-108.

(d) The task force shall agree upon any findings and recommendations by a majority vote of the total membership of the task force. A majority of the members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the purpose of meeting and conducting business.

(e)

(1) A public member who misses more than fifty percent (50%) of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year is removed as a member of the task force.

(2) The chair of the task force shall promptly notify, or cause to be notified, the appointing authority of a public member who fails to satisfy the attendance requirement of subdivision (e)(1).

(f) All vacancies occurring on the task force by reason of death or resignation are filled by the task force itself.

(g) The members of the task force receive no compensation for their services on the task force, but receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the task force and for travel incident thereto, in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(h) In making appointments to the task force, the appointing authorities shall strive to ensure that the task force membership is diverse in educational background, ethnicity, race, sex, and geographic residency.

(i) The agency is responsible for providing administrative support services to the task force.

(j)

(1) Public notice shall be given for all meetings, and all meetings are open to the public.

(2) All records are available to the public. An individual wishing to obtain copies of such records may request the copies in writing from the task force.

69-12-104.

(a) The task force may request assistance and support from:

- (1) A statutorily created entity in this state; and
- (2) A member of the public, industry, or academia.

(b) The task force may make use of existing studies, surveys, plans, data, and other materials in the possession of state agencies. The agencies shall make materials available to the task force upon request and assist the task force in the performance of its functions.

(c) To coordinate and strengthen efforts to reduce losses from future disasters in this state, the task force shall:

(1) Compile a "Response, Recovery and Resilience" report designed to align efforts and improve coordination to deliver timely and meaningful resources, guidance, and long-term support for communities impacted by flood disasters.

The report must, at a minimum:

(A) Consolidate and document situation assessments of recovery progress and identify best practices for overcoming obstacles to recovery and resilience in areas designated with a FEMA flood-related major disaster declaration;

(B) Identify and evaluate resources available to meet near- and long-term community needs to mitigate future flooding and redevelop sustainably; and

(C) Develop recommendations for next steps, paths forward, and accountabilities to facilitate the purpose of the report;

(2) Develop and implement a watershed-based statewide flood risk reduction and resilience plan, to build upon findings and recommendations from

the "Response, Recovery and Resilience Report," the 2020 Tennessee advisory commission on intergovernmental relations (TACIR) Report "Collaborating to Improve Community Resiliency to Natural Disasters," and any revisions to the report by TACIR, and serve as a framework to guide state investment in flood mitigation projects and the adoption of programs and policies to protect people, businesses, and property in this state. The plan must include provisions that:

- (A) Describe and update known flood risks in each of Tennessee's major watershed basins;
- (B) Identify data and information gaps in each major watershed basin that affect the capacity of state agencies and local governments to evaluate and address factors that increase flood risk; and
- (C) Develop recommendations to decrease the vulnerabilities and adverse impacts associated with flooding. The recommendations should seek to reduce the need of future government spending and activity around disaster recovery and must consider the following:
 - (i) The economic impact of flood risks to the state, including the impact of government services, housing, forestry, agriculture, water and other natural resources, food systems, zoning, wildlife, hunting, infrastructure, economic productivity and security, education, and public health;
 - (ii) The long-term costs of flooding, including the cost of ongoing operation and maintenance of specific projects or suites of flood mitigation projects and approaches;
 - (iii) Opportunities to prioritize the role of nature-based solutions and other methods to restore the natural function of a floodplain;

(iv) Additional benefits that may be achieved beyond flood reduction, including improvements in water quality, economic development, tourism and recreational opportunities, or protection of wildlife and aquatic resources;

(v) Statutory or regulatory remedies for consideration by the general assembly;

(vi) Necessary state policies or responses to decrease the vulnerabilities and adverse impacts associated with flooding, including alterations to state building codes and land use management, creation or streamlining of programs or offices, and directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and support to reduce the impact of flooding; and

(vii) Potential financial resources available for increasing resiliency throughout the state;

(3) Recommend the integration of identified approaches to risk reduction into existing state strategies for hazard mitigation, environmental protection, and economic opportunity and development, with the goal of reducing government burden and costs to taxpayers;

(4) Coordinate statewide flood disaster mitigation programs, and collaboration between federal, state, and local stakeholders; and

(5) Develop:

(A) A statewide strategy for the provision of technical assistance to government entities for resilience planning; and

(B) A clearinghouse of available resources to support flood resilience planning and mitigation programs.

(d) The taskforce shall hold public meetings in accordance with title 8, chapter 44 to gather information and feedback on recommendations and proposed activities.

69-12-105.

(a) There is created in the state treasury the flood resilience reserve fund, which is separate and distinct from the general fund and all other reserve funds, to be administered by the agency. As used in this section, "the fund" refers to the flood resilience reserve fund.

(b) The fund consists of moneys appropriated to the fund by the general assembly. Funds appropriated to the fund must only be used to develop, implement, and maintain the statewide flood risk reduction and resilience plan developed by the task force, and for hazard mitigation, and infrastructure improvements.

(c) Interest accrued by the fund must remain in the fund, and unexpended funds must be retained and carried forward to be used for the same purposes.

(d) The fund may make financial assistance available to a state and local government entity, a river basin authority, a development district, or a non-profit entity related to reducing the long-term costs of flood-related disasters. For the purposes of this section, activities related to reducing the long-term costs of flood-related disasters include:

(1) Financial assistance to a state or local governmental entity to provide the share of funds not covered by a federal source for federal flood and pre-disaster resilience programs;

(2) A mitigation buyout, relocation, or buyout assistance for a home, including a multifamily unit, not covered by the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (44 C.F.R. § 206.430 et seq.);

(3) Gap funding related to a buyout to move a resident out of a floodplain hazard area and restore or enhance the natural flood-mitigation capacity of functioning floodplains;

(4) Assistance to low and moderate-income homeowners to help lower the cost of flood insurance and structural and nonstructural mitigation projects, including the use of nature-based solutions;

(5) A loan or grant to a state or local governmental entity for a hazard mitigation and infrastructure improvement project; and

(6) An approved mitigation project identified in a local post-disaster recovery plan created and adopted prior to a disaster.

(e) Upon the fund's creation, funding priority must be given to projects identified by the statewide flood risk reduction and resilience plan developed by the task force.

(f) Projects selected to receive financial assistance for hazard mitigation and infrastructure improvement projects must comply with requirements of the federal National Flood Insurance Program (42 U.S.C. § 4001 et seq.), or requirements adopted by a local government that are more stringent than those provided for under the federal program. The task force shall give priority to projects that offer enhanced protection from future flood events and incorporate natural features to achieve protections. Funds shall not be used for projects that increase the flood vulnerabilities of neighboring areas.

(g) In order to qualify for hazard mitigation and infrastructure improvement grants and loans, eligible fund recipients must apply to the agency and meet all criteria set forth by the agency.

(h) The task force shall review all criteria adopted by the agency for allocating funds and advise the director of the agency on the allocation of such funds pursuant to this section.

69-12-106.

(a) The task force shall appear before the government operations committee of the house of representatives and the government operations committee of the senate, meeting jointly, to present an interim progress report of its findings and recommendations no later than July 1, 2023.

(b)

(1) The task force shall submit a final report of its findings and recommendations to the government operations committee of the house of representatives, the government operations committee of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the speaker of the senate, TACIR, and the director of the agency, no later than July 1, 2024. The final report must include:

(A) A recommended statewide flood risk reduction and resilience plan in accordance with this chapter;

(B) A recommendation on the integration of identified approaches to risk reduction for hazard mitigation, environmental protection, and economic opportunity and development, with the goal of reducing government burden and costs to taxpayers;

(C) A statewide strategy for the provision of technical assistance to government entities for resilience planning;

(D) Information about the clearinghouse of resources to support flood resilience planning and mitigation programs; and

(E) Details about hazard mitigation and infrastructure improvement projects, if any, that have received financial assistance from the flood resilience reserve fund.

(2) The report must be posted on the agency's website in a publicly accessible place.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of appointing public members to the task force, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.

Amendment No. _____

Signature of Sponsor

FILED
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1925*

House Bill No. 2056

by deleting all the language after the caption and substituting instead the following:

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the General Assembly to establish reasonable and uniform requirements to protect landowners and communities from the potential hazards and costs associated with abandoned energy-generating facilities while also protecting property rights and the positive business environment in the State of Tennessee, the reliability of the electrical grid, and the ability of the State of Tennessee to encourage economic development, quality jobs, and business investments that require low-cost electricity from new renewable energy sources; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 66, Chapter 9, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new section.

66-9-207. Solar power facility agreements.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Decommissioning cost" means the estimated cost of performing the removal and restoration obligations set forth in subsection (c), less the estimated salvage value of the components of the solar power facility as of the date of removal;

(2) "Grantee" means a person, other than a public utility, as defined by § 65-4-101, who leases property from a landowner or holds an easement interest pursuant to a solar power facility agreement;



0220206738



014579

(3) "Landowner" means the owner or owners of a fee simple interest in land;

(4) "Premises" means the real property leased or granted by a landowner to a grantee pursuant to a solar power facility agreement;

(5)

(A) "Solar power facility" means, collectively, a device or structure, or series thereof, that provides for the collection of solar energy for electricity generation, together with all facilities and equipment, other than any facility or equipment owned by a public utility, as defined by § 65-4-101, located proximate to and in support of the operation of such electricity generation device or structure, including, without limitation, all underground and aboveground electrical collection, distribution, and transmission lines; inverters; transformers; substations; energy storage facilities; telecommunications equipment and communication lines; meteorological towers; maintenance yards; switchgear; fences; and foundations supporting other components of the solar power facility; and

(B) "Solar power facility" does not include a solar-generating device or structure that is less than ten megawatts (10 MW) in size, measured in alternating current at the point of interconnection to the electrical grid, unless the application of this part is expressly provided for in the solar power facility agreement; and

(6) "Solar power facility agreement" means a lease or easement agreement for real property between a grantee and a landowner for the construction, installation, and operation of all or a part of a solar power facility on such real property that generates electricity primarily for use and consumption off the premises.

(b) All solar power facility agreements:

(1) Must provide, at a minimum, that the grantee shall, upon or prior to the expiration or termination of the solar power facility agreement, safely remove or cause the removal of all components of the solar power facility located on the premises, except for any electrical or communications lines buried more than three feet (3') below the surface grade of the land, and restore the land comprising the premises to, as near as reasonably possible, its condition as of the date of the commencement of construction of the solar power facility; and

(2) Must either contain or provide that the grantee shall deliver to the landowner a decommissioning plan detailing the grantee's plan for performing or causing the performance of the obligations in subdivision (b)(1).

(c)

(1) A solar power facility agreement must require the grantee to obtain and deliver to the landowner financial assurance in the amount of the decommissioning cost to secure the performance of the grantee's removal and restoration obligations in subsection (b).

(2) Acceptable forms of financial assurance must be set forth in the solar power facility agreement and must include one (1) or more of the following in the amount required by subdivision (c)(1):

- (A) A surety bond;
- (B) A collateral bond;
- (C) An irrevocable letter of credit;
- (D) A parent guaranty;
- (E) Cash;
- (F) A cashier's check;
- (G) A certificate of deposit;
- (H) A bank joint custody receipt;

(I) An approved negotiated instrument not described in subdivisions (c)(2)(A)-(H); or

(J) A combination of the forms of security described in subdivisions (c)(2)(A)-(I).

(3) The grantee shall deliver the financial security required by this subsection (c) to the landowner no later than the earlier of:

(A) The date of completion of the construction of the solar power facility; or

(B) The date that is five (5) years prior to the expiration of the initial term of the solar power facility agreement.

(d) This section does not prohibit a local government from regulating solar power facilities pursuant to its zoning authority granted in title 13, except that a local government shall not impose removal or restoration obligations or require financial assurance securing such obligations that are more stringent than or additional to those provided for in this section.

(e) A provision of a solar power facility agreement that purports to waive a right or exempt a grantee from a liability or duty established by this section is void unless the landowner and the grantee are affiliated entities.

(f) A person who is harmed by a violation of this section is entitled to relief provided under title 29, chapter 14.

(g) The requirements of this section only apply to solar power facility agreements initially entered into on or after the effective date of this act. If a grantee and landowner agree to amend a solar power facility agreement initially entered into before the effective date of this act, the parties may include the rights and obligations established by this section, and this section must govern such amended agreements.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.