

AN ACT

RELATING TO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS; PROVIDING FOR EXTENSIONS OF ASSESSMENTS IMPOSED BY THE SUPERVISORS OF A SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

~~Section 1. Section 73-20-46 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1965, Chapter 137, Section 20, as amended) is amended to read:~~

~~"73-20-46. DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS.--~~

~~A. In the event a district is unable to meet or bear the expense of the duties imposed upon it by the Soil and Water Conservation District Act, the supervisors may adopt a resolution that, to be effective, shall be approved by referendum in the district and that shall provide for an annual levy for a stated period of up to ten years in a stated amount not exceeding one dollar (\$1.00), or any lower maximum amount required by operation of the rate limitation provisions of Section 7-37-7.1 NMSA 1978 upon the assessment authorized by this section, on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value, as that term is defined in the Property Tax Code, of real property within the district, except that real property within incorporated cities and towns in the district may be excluded. The referendum held to approve or reject the resolution of the supervisors shall be conducted with~~

~~appropriate ballot and in substantially the same manner as a referendum adopting and approving the creation of a proposed district. After the initial authorization is approved by referendum, the supervisors shall adopt a resolution in each following year authorizing the levy. To extend an assessment beyond the period of time originally authorized and approved by referendum, the supervisors shall adopt a new resolution extending the period of time originally authorized.~~

~~B. A resolution authorized under Subsection A of this section shall not be effective, and neither a referendum nor a levy is authorized, unless the resolution is submitted to and approved in writing by the commission.~~

~~C. In the event a resolution of the supervisors is adopted and approved in accordance with the provisions of Subsection A of this section, the supervisors of the district shall certify by the fifteenth of July of each year to the county assessor of each county in which there is situate land subject to the district assessment:~~

~~(1) a copy of the resolution of the supervisors;~~

~~(2) the results of any referendum held in the year the certification is made; and~~

~~(3) a list of landowners of the district and a description of the land owned by each that is subject to assessment.~~

~~D. A county assessor shall indicate the information on the tax schedules, compute the assessment and present the district assessment by regular tax bill.~~

~~E. The district assessment shall be collected by the county treasurer of each county in which taxable district land is situate in the same manner and at the same time that county ad valorem taxes are levied. The conditions, penalties and rates of interest applicable to county ad valorem taxation apply to the levy and collection of district assessments. A county treasurer shall be entitled to a collection fee equal to the actual costs of collection or four percent of the money collected from the levy of the district assessment, whichever is the lesser.~~

~~F. District funds, regardless of origin, shall be transferred to and held by the supervisors and shall be expended for district obligations and functions. The supervisors shall prepare an annual budget and submit it for approval to the commission and to the local government division of the department of finance and administration. All district funds shall be expended in accordance with the approved budgets.~~

~~G. In the event the supervisors of a district determine that there are or will be sufficient funds available for the operation of the district for any year for which an assessment is to be levied, they shall, by resolution, direct~~

~~the assessor of each county in which taxable district land is situate, by July 15 of each year, to decrease the district assessment or to delete the district assessment reflected on the tax schedules.~~

~~H. Any levy authorized by the Soil and Water Conservation District Act and any loan or other indebtedness authorized by that act that will require a levy shall be based exclusively on or levied exclusively on the real property in the district, except that real property within incorporated cities and towns may be excluded."~~

Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--Four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of finance and administration for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 ~~to distribute to soil and water conservation districts~~ for the purpose of matching federal funds for water conservation and resource restoration technical assistance pursuant to an agreement with the United States department of agriculture resources conservation services. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

Section 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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