



ANNO SEXAGESIMO PRIMO ET SEXAGESIMO
SECUNDO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

A.D. 1898.

No. 700.

An Act to establish Free Libraries in Corporate Towns
and District Councils.

[*Assented to, December 23rd, 1898.*]

BE it Enacted by the Governor, with the advice and consent of
the Parliament of South Australia, as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as "The Free Libraries Act, 1898." Short title.

2. For the purposes of this Act Municipal Corporations and District Councils shall have the following powers, namely:— Power to establish Free Libraries.

- i. To establish Free Libraries within their Municipalities or Districts, and, if thought fit, for that purpose to purchase or take over from any persons able and willing to sell or transfer the same any existing Institute or Library:
- ii. To borrow money on debentures:
- iii. To declare an annual rate to provide funds:
- iv. To expend any portion of their revenues in the maintenance of Free Libraries:
- v. To make rules for the management of Free Libraries, and for the appointment of committees and officers in connection therewith:
- vi. To accept gifts and donations.

3. No Free Library shall be established without the consent of the ratepayers obtained at a public meeting called for the purpose, of which at least fourteen days' notice has been given by advertisement Consent of ratepayers.

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ment in some newspaper circulating in the district. At such meeting the chairman shall take a show of hands for every proposition and amendment touching the object of the meeting, and shall declare that proposition carried for which in his opinion the largest show of hands appears.

Poll may be demanded.

4. Immediately after the chairman shall have declared the result of the show of hands at any such meeting, he shall publicly inquire from the meeting whether any ratepayers demand a poll, and thereupon any six ratepayers may demand a poll by giving notice in writing of such demand to the chairman of the meeting, and such chairman shall thereupon appoint a day, not later than fourteen days thereafter, to take a poll of ratepayers on the subject.

Proceedings in case of loans.

5. No money shall be borrowed pursuant to this Act to an amount which would exceed ten times the amount which at the time of borrowing would result from a rate of Three Pence in the Pound on the assessed value of all ratable property in the Municipality or District, and without the consent of the ratepayers obtained in the manner following:—

- (a) A notice stating the amount of money proposed to be borrowed, and the proposed expenditure of the money shall be published in the *Government Gazette*, and twice in some newspaper circulating in the Municipality or District, and posted up at the office of the council:
- (b) If within one month after the last publication of the notice twenty ratepayers by writing under their hands, delivered at the office of the council, demand that a poll shall be taken, a poll shall be taken accordingly:
- (c) If no such demand is made within such time the ratepayers shall be deemed to consent to the loan, and no poll shall be necessary.

Polls, how taken.

6. Polls shall be taken as follows:—

- I. In Municipalities, in the manner provided by “The Municipal Corporations Act, 1890”:
- II. In District Councils, in the manner provided by Part I. of “The Land Value Assessment Act, 1893”:
- III. The scale of voting prescribed by section 251 of “The Municipal Corporations Act, 1890,” and section 5 of “The Land Value Assessment Act, 1893,” shall respectively apply to such polls.

Free Libraries rate.

7. No rate declared for the purposes of this Act shall exceed Three Pence in the Pound on the assessed value of the ratable property in the Municipality or District, and the moneys arising from such rate shall be expended in the establishment or maintenance of Free Libraries, or in payment of the principal and interest of any loan raised under the authority of this Act.

8. Free

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8. Free Libraries shall be deemed to be urban, suburban, or country institutes, as the case may be, for the purpose of participating in any grant voted by Parliament in aid of such institutes. Free Libraries to participate in grants.

9. This Act, so far as it relates to Municipalities, shall be incorporated with "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1890," and so far as it relates to District Councils, with "The District Councils Act, 1887." Incorporation.

10. Any two or more Municipal Corporations or District Councils may agree to combine with each other or with any Corporations or Councils for the purposes of this Act, and so that it shall suffice if the Free Library be established within any Municipality or District the Corporation or Council of which shall be a party to such agreement. Local bodies may combine for purposes of Act.

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, I hereby assent to this Bill.

S. J. WAY, Lieutenant-Governor.