

CHAPTER 5

Original House Bill No. 22

**GRASSHOPPER CONTROL BOARD—APPROPRIATION FOR
GRASSHOPPER CONTROL**

AN ACT declaring an emergency, providing for a Grasshopper Control Board, defining its powers, duties and compensations and appropriating funds for grasshopper control.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

EMERGENCY DECLARED

Section 1. It having been determined that large areas of the State of Wyoming are and will be endangered by critical grasshopper infestation during the coming season, resulting in serious loss of valuable crops and pasturage in the State, the Legislature declares an emergency to exist and invokes the police power of the State to endeavor within reasonable limits to meet said emergency and establish uniform methods for the control of grasshopper infestation throughout the State of Wyoming.

GRASSHOPPER CONTROL BOARD—CREATION

Section 2. For purposes of administering this Act there is hereby created a Board to be known as the Grasshopper Control Board, consisting of five members, to be appointed forthwith by the Governor, who shall be resident land owners of the State of Wyoming actively engaged in farming or ranching in this State. Said Board shall meet not later than ten days after the effective date of this Act and shall organize by electing one member of said Board as Chairman and one member of said Board as Vice Chairman. The Commissioner of Agriculture shall act as Secretary of said Board.

COMPENSATION

Section 3. The members of the Board shall receive as compensation for their services, \$12.00 a day for each day's attendance upon the business of the Board and shall be reimbursed for expenses and necessary travel in the same manner and to the same extent as presently fixed for State Officers.

POWERS AND DUTIES

Section 4. For the purpose of meeting said emergency the Grasshopper Control Board shall have and exercise the following powers, duties and functions:

(a) To determine critically infested grasshopper areas within the State of Wyoming and to formulate, approve, and carry out plans for the eradication of such infestation in said areas.

(b) To allocate, supervise, and expend the expenditures of funds appropriated by this Act for the purpose of this emergency, provided that all vouchers shall be signed by the Chairman and Secretary of said Board.

(c) To command the facilities and personnel of the Wyoming Aeronautics Commission and of the Wyoming Department of Agri-

culture and the County Agents of the counties concerned, within the scope of their statutory duties.

(d) To hire and employ such additional help and facilities as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act and to buy, rent, lease, or otherwise provide and dispose of equipment, materials and supplies necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(e) To cooperate with individuals or voluntary groups, or with Pest Control Districts now or hereafter established under the Laws of the State of Wyoming or any other local agencies set up for this purpose.

(f) Upon a showing by the State Entomologist that lands are infested by grasshoppers, which are liable to spread to the injury of others, and the owners of said lands, or the person in charge or control of such premise, refuses to permit the Grasshopper Control Board to spread bait upon said lands, then in that event the said Board may notify the owner of the lands, or person in charge or control thereof, in writing, and demand that within a specified time certain specified work shall be done on the infested premises for the control and extermination of the grasshoppers. If the owner or person in charge or control of said lands fails or refuses to do effective work, within the time specified, upon said lands, the Grasshopper Control Board may take possession of the infested premises and do the work necessary for the control and extermination of grasshoppers thereon.

(g) To adopt rules and regulations consistent with the purposes of the Act including the method and manner of rendering aid and assistance; the care, use and preservation of equipment, materials and supplies purchased by the said Board; and the keeping of records and accounts of its activities.

(h) To cooperate with all agencies of the United States Government interested in the control of grasshoppers.

(i) To compromise, settle, and pay all just claims arising from negligent operations under this Act, and to prescribe a procedure for presentation and proof of said claims.

(j) To purchase ground distributing machines for bait and allocate among the several counties on a loan basis said machines to farmers and ranchers in the infested areas.

(k) All control operations of the Grasshopper Control Board shall be terminated by December 1, 1950. All leases, equipment, and motor vehicles acquired under the authority of this Act shall be disposed of by said Board at a public auction to the highest bidder on or before January 1, 1951; provided, however, the Board, if it deems advisable, may retain ground distributing bait machines and mixing equipment which shall be transferred to the State Department of Agriculture. Said public auction may be held at such times and places and upon such notice as the Board deems fit and proper. The proceeds derived from said public auction shall be covered into the general fund of the State. Prior to dissolution of the Board, which shall be by action of the Governor of the State, and in no event later than January 10, 1951, the Board shall submit to the Governor and the Thirty-first State Legislature a detailed report of its activities, accomplishments, and expenditures.

APPROPRIATION

Section 5. There is hereby appropriated out of the funds of the State of Wyoming, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$750,000.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. The Grasshopper Control Board, or its duly constituted and appointed agents, shall draw upon and expend the funds appropriated in this Act only in those operations instituted and controlled by said Board or its agents. No agency or department of the United States Government may directly draw upon, or directly control, the expenditure of funds appropriated in this Act, except as an agent of the Grasshopper Control Board.

Section 7. An emergency existing, this Act shall be in effect from and after its passage and approval.

Approved February 27, 1950.