

**STATE OF WASHINGTON.
ENABLING ACT AND STATE
CONSTITUTION WITH SIDE
NOTES AND INDEX**

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State of Washington. Enabling Act and State Constitution with Side Notes and Index by
Various

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON.
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STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENABLING ACT
AND
STATE CONSTITUTION

WITH

SIDE NOTES AND INDEX.

Washington Constitution

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ENABLING ACT.

An Act to provide for the division of Dakota into two states and to enable the people of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington to form constitutions and state governments and to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, and to make donations of public lands to such states.

Section 1. Be It enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled: That the inhabitants of all that part of the area of the United States now constituting the Territories of Dakota, Montana and Washington, as at present described, may become the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Washington, respectively, as hereinafter provided. What territories may be admitted.

Sec. 2. The area comprising the Territory of Dakota shall, for the purpose of this act, be divided on the line of the seventh standard parallel produced due west to the western boundary of said territory; and the delegates elected as hereinafter provided to the constitutional convention in districts north of said parallel shall assemble in convention, at the time prescribed in this act, at the city of Bismarck; and delegates elected in districts south of said parallel shall, at the same time, assemble in convention at the city of Sioux Falls. Division of Dakota.

Sec. 3. That all persons who are qualified by the laws of said territories to vote for representatives to the legislative assemblies thereof, are hereby authorized to vote for and choose delegates to form conventions in said proposed states; and the qualifications for delegates to such conventions shall be such as by the laws of said territories, respectively, persons are required to possess to be eligible to the legislative assemblies thereof; and the aforesaid delegates to form said conventions shall be appointed within the limits of the proposed states, in such districts as may be established as herein provided, in proportion to the population of each of such counties and districts, as near as may be, to be ascertained at the time of making said apportionments by the persons hereinafter authorized to make the same, from the best information obtainable, in each of which districts three delegates shall be elected, but no elector shall vote for more than two persons for delegates to such conventions; that said apportionments shall be made by the governor, and chief justice, and the secretary of said territories; and the governors of said territories shall, by proclamation, or Qualifications of electors and delegates. Choosing delegates.

Number of delegates.

der an election of the delegates aforesaid in each of said proposed states, to be held on the Tuesday after the second Monday in May, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, which proclamation shall be issued on the fifteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine; and such election shall be conducted, the returns made, the result ascertained, and the certificates to persons elected to such convention issued in the same manner as is prescribed by laws of said territories regulating elections therein for delegates to congress; and the number of votes cast for delegates in each precinct shall also be returned. The number of delegates to said conventions, respectively, shall be seventy-five; and all persons residents in said proposed states, who are qualified voters of said territories as herein provided, shall be entitled to vote upon the election of delegates, and under such rules and regulations as said conventions may prescribe, not in conflict with this act, upon the ratification or rejection of the constitutions.

Constitutional conventions, where held: when.

Sec. 4. That the delegates to the conventions elected as provided for in this act shall meet at the seat of government of each of said territories, except the delegates elected in South Dakota, who shall meet at the city of Sioux Falls, on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, and, after organization, shall declare, on behalf of the people of said proposed states, that they adopt the constitution of the United States; whereupon the said conventions shall be, and are hereby, authorized to form constitutions and state governments for said proposed states, respectively. The constitutions shall be republican in form, and make no distinction in civil or political rights on account of race or color, except as to Indians not taxed, and not be repugnant to the constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence. And said convention shall provide, by ordinance irrevocable without the consent of the United States and people of said states: First: That perfect toleration of religious sentiment shall be secured, and that no inhabitant of said states shall ever be molested in person or property on account of his or her mode of religious worship. Second: That the people inhabiting said proposed states do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to the unappropriated public lands lying within the boundaries thereof, and to all lands lying within said limits owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes; and that until the title thereto shall have been extinguished by the United States, the same shall be and remain subject to the disposition of the United States, and said Indian lands shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States; that the lands belonging to the citizens of the United States residing without the said state shall never be taxed at a higher rate than the lands belonging to residents thereof; that

Religious toleration.

Unappropriated lands, ownership of must be disclaimed.

Taxation.

no taxes shall be imposed by the states on lands or property therein belonging to or which may hereafter be purchased by the United States or reserved for its use. But nothing herein, or in the ordinances herein provided for, shall preclude the said states from taxing, as other lands are taxed, any lands owned or held by any Indian who has served his tribal relations, and has obtained from the United States or any person a title thereto, by patent or other grant, save and except such lands as have been or may be granted to any Indian or Indians under any act of congress containing a provision exempting the lands thus granted from taxation; but said ordinances shall provide that all such lands shall be exempt from taxation by said states so long and to such extent as such act of congress may prescribe.

Third: That the debts and liabilities of said territories shall be assumed and paid by said states, respectively. ^{Debts of territories.}

Fourth: That provision shall be made for the establishment and maintenance of systems of public schools, which shall be open to all the children of said states and free from sectarian control. ^{Schools, free and sectarian control.}

Sec. 5. That the convention which shall assemble at Bismarck shall form a constitution and state government for a state to be known as North Dakota, and the convention which shall assemble at Sioux Falls shall form a constitution and state government for a state to be known as South Dakota; ^{Conventions in Dakota.} Provided, That at the election for delegates to the constitutional convention in South Dakota, as hereinbefore provided, each elector may have written or printed on his ballot the words "For the Sioux Falls Constitution," or the words "Against the Sioux Falls Constitution," and the votes on this question shall be returned and canvassed in the same manner as for the election provided for in section three of this act; and if a majority of all votes cast on this shall be "For the Sioux Falls Constitution," it shall be the duty of the convention which may assemble at Sioux Falls, as herein provided, to re-submit to the people of South Dakota, for ratification or rejection at the election hereinafter provided for in this act, the constitution framed at Sioux Falls, and adopted November third, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, and also the articles and propositions separately submitted at that election, including the question of locating the temporary seat of government, with such changes only as relate to the name and boundary of the proposed state, to the reapportionment of the judicial and legislative districts, and such amendments as may be necessary in order to comply with the provisions of this act, and if a majority of the votes cast on the ratification or rejection of the constitution shall be for the constitution, irrespective of the articles separately submitted, the State of South Dakota shall be admitted as a state in the Union under said constitution as hereinafter provided; but the ^{Archives of Dakota.} archives, records, and books of the Territory of Dakota, until

an agreement in reference thereto is reached by the states. But if at the election for delegates to the constitutional convention in South Dakota a majority of all the votes cast at that election shall be "Against the Sioux Falls Constitution," then and in that event it shall be the duty of the convention which will assemble at the City of Sioux Falls on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, to proceed to form a constitution and state government as provided in this act the same as if that question had not been submitted to a vote of the people of South Dakota.

Public property of Dakota division of.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the constitutional conventions of North Dakota and South Dakota to appoint a joint commission, to be composed of not less than three members of each convention, whose duty it shall be to assemble at Bismarck, the present seat of government of said territory, and agree upon an equitable division of all property belonging to the Territory of Dakota, the disposition of all public records, and also adjust and agree upon the amount of the debts and liabilities of the territory which shall be assumed and paid by each of the proposed states of North Dakota and South Dakota; and the agreement reached respecting the territorial debts and liabilities shall be incorporated in the respective constitutions, and each of said states shall obligate itself to pay its portion of such debts and liabilities the same as if they had been created by such states respectively.

Convention to be reconvened in case of rejection of constitution

Sec. 7. If the constitutions formed for both North Dakota and South Dakota shall be rejected by the people at the elections for the ratification or rejection of their respective constitutions as provided for in this act, the territorial government of Dakota shall continue in existence the same as if this act had not been passed. But if the constitution formed for either North or South Dakota shall be rejected by the people, that part of the territory so rejecting its proposed constitution shall continue under the territorial government of the present Territory of Dakota, but shall, after the state adopting its constitution is admitted into the Union, be called by the name of the Territory of North Dakota, or South Dakota, as the case may be: Provided, That if either of the proposed states provided for in this act shall reject the constitution which may be submitted for ratification or rejection at the election provided therefor, the governor of the territory in which such proposed constitution was rejected shall issue his proclamation reconvening the delegates elected to the convention which formed such rejected constitution, fixing the time and place at which said delegates shall assemble; and when so assembled they shall proceed to form another constitution or to amend the rejected constitution, and shall submit such new constitution or amended constitution to the people of the proposed state for ratification or rejection, at such time

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as such convention may determine; and all the provisions of this act, so far as applicable, shall apply to such convention so re-assembled and to the constitution which may be formed, its ratification or rejection, and to the admission of the proposed state.

Sec. 8. That the constitutional convention which may assemble in South Dakota shall provide by ordinance for resubmitting the Sioux Falls constitution of eighteen hundred and eighty-five, after having amended the same as provided in section five of this act, to the people of South Dakota for ratification or rejection at an election to be held therein on the first Tuesday in October, eighteen hundred and eighty-nine, but if said constitutional convention is authorized and required to form a new constitution for South Dakota, it shall provide for submitting the same in like manner to the people of South Dakota for ratification or rejection at an election to be held in said proposed state on the said first Tuesday in October. And the constitutional conventions which may assemble in North Dakota, Montana and Washington shall provide in like manner for submitting the constitutions formed by them to the people of said proposed states, respectively, for ratification or rejection at elections to be held in said proposed states on said first Tuesday in October. At the elections provided in this section the qualified voters of said proposed states shall vote directly for or against the proposed constitutions and for or against any articles or propositions separately submitted. The returns of said elections shall be made to the secretary of each of said territories, who, with the governor and chief justice thereof, or any two of them, shall canvass the same; and if a majority of the legal votes cast shall be for the constitution the governor shall certify the result to the president of the United States together with a statement of the votes cast thereon and upon separate articles or propositions, and a copy of said constitution, articles, propositions, and ordinances. And if the constitutions and governments of said proposed states are republican in form, and if all the provisions of this act have been complied with in the formation thereof, it shall be the duty of the president of the United States to issue his proclamation announcing the result of the election in each, and thereupon the proposed states which have adopted constitutions and formed state governments as herein provided shall be deemed admitted by congress into the Union, under and by virtue of this act, on an equal footing with the original states, from and after the date of said proclamation.

Sec. 9. That until the next general census, or until otherwise provided by law, said states shall be entitled to one representative in the house of representatives of the United States, except South Dakota, which shall be entitled to two; and the representatives to the fifty-first congress, together with the gov-

Convention of South Dakota shall submit Sioux Falls constitution.

Elections in North Dakota, Montana and Washington to vote on adoption of constitutions.

Election returns.

Governors to certify returns.

President to issue proclamation.

Representatives in congress.