

ners or members thereof, and, as applied to corporations, the officers thereof.

“Transaction.” The making, executing, delivering, accepting, or presenting for recording of a document.

“Value.” In the case of any document granting, bargaining, selling, or otherwise conveying any land, tenement or hereditament, or interest therein, the amount of the actual consideration therefor, including liens or other encumbrances thereon and ground rents, or a commensurate part of the liens or other encumbrances thereon, and ground rents where such liens or other encumbrances and ground rents also encumber or are charged against other lands, tenements or hereditaments: Provided, That where such document shall set forth a small or nominal consideration, the “value” thereof shall be determined from the price set forth in or actual consideration for the contract of sale, or, in the case of a gift, or any other document without consideration, from the actual monetary worth of the property granted, bargained, sold, or otherwise conveyed, which, in either event, shall not be less than the amount of the highest assessment of such lands, tenements or hereditaments for local tax purposes.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Act effective immediately.

APPROVED—The 15th day of March, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 401

AN ACT

Amending the act of March ten, one thousand nine hundred forty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 30), entitled “An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto,” authorizing boards of school directors of school districts of the second, third and fourth classes, with the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, to levy an additional tax to pay for amortization of certain bond issues.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Public School Code of 1949.

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section six hundred seventy-two, act of March ten, one thousand nine hundred forty-nine (Pamphlet Laws 30), known as the “Public School Code of 1949,” amended January eighteen, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two (Pamphlet Laws 2126), and January twenty-one, one thousand nine hundred fifty-two (Pamphlet Laws 2195), is amended to read:

Subsection (b), section 672, act of March 10, 1949, P. L. 30, amended January 18, 1952, P. L. 2126 and January 21, 1952 P. L. 2195, further amended.

Section 672. Tax Levy Limitations.—* * *

(b) Boards of school directors of school districts of the second, third, and fourth classes are hereby authorized and directed to levy annually, a tax on each dollar of the total assessment of all property assessed and certified for taxation therein, (1) To pay the minimum salaries and increments of the teaching and supervisory staff provided for herein, and (2) to pay rentals due any municipality authority or due the State Public School Building Authority. Neither of said taxes shall be invalidated or affected by reason of the fact that it may increase the total annual school tax levy of any school district beyond the millage fixed or limited by this section: Provided, That in districts of the fourth class, the tax herein authorized to pay minimum salaries and increments, together with all other school taxes, except taxes to pay rentals due any municipality authority or due the State Public School Building Authority, levied in the district, shall not exceed thirty-five (35) mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation thereof, and the tax to pay rentals due any municipality authority or due the State Public School Building Authority, together with the maximum rate permitted by this section for purposes other than to pay minimum salaries and increments, shall not exceed thirty-five (35) mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation thereof, and in cases of emergency, with the approval of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, an additional five (5) mills to provide for obligations due any municipality authority or due the State Public School Building Authority under a lease or contract previously entered into, or to pay for amortization of a bond issue which provided a school building since 1945.

In financially handicapped and distressed school districts, boards of school directors of such districts are authorized to levy an additional tax of ten (10) mills on each dollar of the total assessment of all property assessed and certified for taxation: Provided, however, That the following conditions and provisions are complied with: the Department of Public Instruction shall determine (1) by investigation that the district is financially handicapped and distressed, (2) that all taxable property in the district has been levied upon, (3) that all other taxes available to the district and deemed advisable by the Superintendent of Public Instruction have been utilized, (4) that the district has complied with economical standards set forth by the Department of Public Instruction, as determined prior to January 1, 1952, including (a) that the ratio of teachers to pupils shall not exceed one to twenty-five,

(b) that the cost of administration and operation shall not exceed the average of districts of the same class within the same county, and shall be in compliance with good business practices.

APPROVED—The 19th day of March, A. D. 1956.

GEORGE M. LEADER

No. 402

AN ACT

Amending the act of July twenty-eight, one thousand nine hundred fifty-three (Pamphlet Laws 723), entitled "An act relating to counties of the second class; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," extending retirement benefits to veterans of armed conflicts.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

The Second Class
County Code.

Section 1. Subsection (d) of section one thousand seven hundred ten of article XVII, of the act of July twenty-eight, one thousand nine hundred fifty-three (Pamphlet Laws 723), known as "The Second Class County Code," is amended to read:

Subsection (d).
section 1710,
article XVII,
act of July 28,
1953, P. L. 723,
amended.

Section 1710. *Employes Entitled to Retirement Allowances.*—

* * * * *

(d) Any county employe who on and after the sixteenth day of September, one thousand nine hundred forty, has been employed by the county or county institution district for a period of six or more months, and who, on or subsequent to such date, shall have enlisted or been inducted into military service of the United States in time of war or national emergency, so proclaimed by the President or the Congress of the United States, or any police action in which the United States is engaged, or shall serve in the military service of the United States during any armed conflict, shall have credited to his employment record, for retirement benefits, all of the time spent by him in such military service during the continuance of such war, armed conflict, national emergency or police action, if such person returns or has heretofore returned to his employment within one year after his separation from military service and such payments as are required to be made by such county employe into the county employes' retirement fund shall be paid into such fund by the county or county institution district, upon application by such county employe for retirement benefits. Any county employe who has been in military service and returned