

be in the form prescribed in this act for petitions to organize a district. Where the total number of land occupiers in the area proposed for inclusion shall be less than 25, the petition may be filed when signed by a majority of the occupiers of such area, and in such case no referendum need be held. In referenda upon petitions for such inclusion, all occupiers of land lying within the proposed additional area shall be eligible to vote.

I. In any suit, action, or proceeding involving the validity or enforcement of, or relating to, any contract, proceeding, or action of the district, the district shall be deemed to have been established in accordance with the provisions of this act upon proof of the issuance of the aforesaid certificate by the Secretary of State. A copy of such certificate duly certified in any such suit, action, or proceeding shall be proof of the filing and contents thereof.

20. ELECTION OF THREE SUPERVISORS FOR EACH DISTRICT. Within thirty (30) days after the date of issuance by the secretary of State of a certificate of organization of a soil conservation district, nominating petitions may be filed with the State soil conservation committee to nominate candidates for supervisors of such district. The committee shall have authority to extend the time within which nominating petitions may be filed. No such nominating petition shall be accepted by the committee, unless it shall be subscribed by twenty-five (25) or more occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of such district. Land occupiers may sign more than one such nominating petition to nominate more than one candidate for supervisor. The committee shall give due notice of an election to be held for the election of three supervisors for the district. All occupiers of lands lying within the district shall be eligible to vote in such election. Only such land occupiers shall be eligible to vote. The three candidates who shall receive the largest number, respectively, of the votes cast in such election shall be the elected supervisors for such district. The committee shall pay all the expenses of such election, shall supervise the conduct thereof, shall prescribe regulations governing the conduct of such election and the determination of the eligibility of voters therein, and shall publish the results thereof.

21. APPOINTMENT, QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE OF SUPERVISORS. The governing body of the district shall consist of five (5) supervisors, elected or appointed as provided hereinabove. The two supervisors appointed by the committee shall be persons who are by training and experience qualified to perform