
HOUSE BILL 1794

State of Washington 52nd Legislature 1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Bray, Mitchell, Haugen and Ferguson.

Read first time February 11, 1991. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to public hospital districts; amending RCW
2 70.44.040; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 70.44.040 and 1990 c 259 s 39 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The provisions of Title 29 RCW relating to elections shall govern
7 public hospital districts, except that: (1) The total vote cast upon
8 the proposition to form a hospital district shall exceed forty percent
9 of the total number of votes cast in the precincts comprising the
10 proposed district at the preceding general and county election; and (2)
11 in public hospital districts encompassing portions of more than one
12 county, the total vote cast upon the proposition to form the district
13 shall exceed forty percent of the total number of votes cast in each
14 portion of each county lying within the proposed district at the next
15 preceding general and county election. If the public hospital district

1 is coextensive with the limits of a county and if the county is not
2 operating under a home rule charter, then, at the first election of
3 commissioners and until any change is made in the boundaries of the
4 public hospital district commissioner districts in accordance with RCW
5 29.70.100, one public hospital district commissioner shall be chosen
6 from each of the three county commissioner districts of the county in
7 which the public hospital district is located. If the public hospital
8 district comprises only a portion of a county or encompasses portions
9 of more than one county, or if the public hospital district is located
10 in a county operating under a home rule charter, then the petition for
11 the formation of the public hospital district shall describe three
12 public hospital district commissioner districts, numbered
13 consecutively, having approximately equal population and boundaries,
14 following ward and precinct lines, as far as practicable, and, at the
15 first election of commissioners and until any change is made in the
16 boundaries of the public hospital district commissioner districts in
17 accordance with RCW 29.70.100, one commissioner shall be elected from
18 each of the public hospital district commissioner districts described
19 in the petition. If the boundaries described in the petition for the
20 formation of a public hospital district are changed prior to the
21 election on the proposition for the formation of the public hospital
22 district, then the auditor of the county in which the public hospital
23 district is located or, if the public hospital district encompasses
24 portions of more than one county, the auditor of the county in which
25 the largest portion of the public hospital district is located shall
26 redetermine the boundaries of the commissioner districts in accordance
27 with the above provisions. Any candidate for a particular public
28 hospital district commissioner district position must be a registered
29 voter of that commissioner district. Public hospital district
30 commissioners shall hold office for the term of six years and until

1 their successors are elected and qualified, each term to commence on
2 the first day in January following the election. At the election at
3 which the proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether a
4 district shall be formed, three commissioners shall be elected to hold
5 office, respectively, for the terms of two, four, and six years. All
6 candidates shall be voted upon by the entire district, and the
7 candidate residing in commissioner district No. 1 receiving the highest
8 number of votes in the hospital district shall hold office for the term
9 of six years; the candidate residing in commissioner district No. 2
10 receiving the highest number of votes in the hospital district shall
11 hold office for the term of four years; and the candidate residing in
12 commissioner district No. 3 receiving the highest number of votes in
13 the hospital district shall hold office for the term of two years. The
14 first commissioners to be elected shall take office immediately when
15 qualified in accordance with RCW 29.01.135. Each term of the initial
16 commissioners shall date from the time above specified following the
17 organizational election, but shall also include the period intervening
18 between the organizational election and the first day of January
19 following the next district general election: PROVIDED, That in public
20 hospital districts (~~encompassing portions of more than one county, the~~
21 ~~total vote cast upon the proposition to form the district shall exceed~~
22 ~~forty percent of the total number of votes cast in each portion of each~~
23 ~~county lying within the proposed district at the next preceding general~~
24 ~~county election. The portion of the proposed district located within~~
25 ~~each county shall constitute a separate commissioner district. There~~
26 ~~shall be three district commissioners whose terms shall be six years.~~
27 ~~Each district shall be designated by the name of the county in which it~~
28 ~~is located. All candidates for commissioners shall be voted upon by~~
29 ~~the entire district. Not more than one commissioner shall reside in~~
30 ~~any one district: PROVIDED FURTHER, That in the event there are only~~

1 ~~two districts then two commissioners may reside in one district. The~~
2 ~~term of each commissioner shall commence on the first day in January in~~
3 ~~each year following his election. At the election at which the~~
4 ~~proposition is submitted to the voters as to whether a district shall~~
5 ~~be formed, three commissioners shall be elected to hold office,~~
6 ~~respectively, for the terms of two, four, and six years. The candidate~~
7 ~~receiving the highest number of votes within the district, as~~
8 ~~constituted by the election, shall serve a term of six years; the~~
9 ~~candidate receiving the next highest number of votes shall hold office~~
10 ~~for a term of four years; and the candidate receiving the next highest~~
11 ~~number of votes shall hold office for a term of two years: PROVIDED~~
12 ~~FURTHER, That the holding of each such term of office shall be subject~~
13 ~~to the residential requirements for district commissioners hereinbefore~~
14 ~~set forth in this section)) created with five or seven commissioners~~
15 ~~pursuant to RCW 70.44.051 the commissioners shall be elected and the~~
16 ~~initial terms of office shall be determined as provided in RCW~~
17 ~~70.44.055 and 70.44.057.~~

18 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. This act shall not be construed as
19 affecting any public hospital district created prior to the effective
20 date of this act.