
HOUSE BILL 2151

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Ormsby, P. Sullivan, B. Sullivan and Dunshee

Read first time 02/09/2007. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing qualified electors to divide
2 optional municipal code cities into wards; and amending RCW 35A.12.180.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 35A.12.180 and 1994 c 223 s 34 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 At any time not within three months previous to a municipal general
7 election, the qualified electors or the council of a noncharter code
8 city organized under this chapter may divide the city into wards or
9 change the boundaries of existing wards. No change in the boundaries
10 of wards shall affect the term of any councilmember, and councilmembers
11 shall serve out their terms in the wards of their residences at the
12 time of their elections: PROVIDED, That if this results in one ward
13 being represented by more councilmembers than the number to which it is
14 entitled those having the shortest unexpired terms shall be assigned by
15 the council to wards where there is a vacancy, and the councilmembers
16 so assigned shall be deemed to be residents of the wards to which they
17 are assigned for purposes of those positions being vacant. The
18 representation of each ward in the city council shall be in proportion
19 to the population as nearly as is practicable.

1 Wards shall be redrawn as provided in chapter ((~~29.70~~)) 29A.76 RCW.
2 Wards shall be used as follows: (1) Only a resident of the ward may be
3 a candidate for, or hold office as, a councilmember of the ward; and
4 (2) only voters of the ward may vote at a primary to nominate
5 candidates for a councilmember of the ward. Voters of the entire city
6 may vote at the general election to elect a councilmember of a ward,
7 unless the city had prior to January 1, 1994, limited the voting in the
8 general election for any or all council positions to only voters
9 residing within the ward associated with the council positions. If a
10 city had so limited the voting in the general election to only voters
11 residing within the ward, then the city shall be authorized to continue
12 to do so.

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