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ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5485

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Environment, Water & Energy (originally sponsored by Senators Rockefeller, Honeyford, Pridemore, and Kilmer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing water-sewer districts to construct,  
2 condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and operate systems for  
3 reclaimed water; and amending RCW 57.08.005, 57.08.044, 57.08.047, and  
4 57.16.010.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 57.08.005 and 2007 c 31 s 8 are each amended to read  
7 as follows:

8 A district shall have the following powers:

9 (1) To acquire by purchase or condemnation, or both, all lands,  
10 property and property rights, and all water and water rights, both  
11 within and without the district, necessary for its purposes. The right  
12 of eminent domain shall be exercised in the same manner and by the same  
13 procedure as provided for cities and towns, insofar as consistent with  
14 this title, except that all assessment or reassessment rolls to be  
15 prepared and filed by eminent domain commissioners or commissioners  
16 appointed by the court shall be prepared and filed by the district, and  
17 the duties devolving upon the city treasurer are imposed upon the  
18 county treasurer;

1 (2) To lease real or personal property necessary for its purposes  
2 for a term of years for which that leased property may reasonably be  
3 needed;

4 (3) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and  
5 supply waterworks to furnish the district and inhabitants thereof and  
6 any other persons, both within and without the district, with an ample  
7 supply of water for all uses and purposes public and private with full  
8 authority to regulate and control the use, content, distribution, and  
9 price thereof in such a manner as is not in conflict with general law  
10 and may construct, acquire, or own buildings and other necessary  
11 district facilities. Where a customer connected to the district's  
12 system uses the water on an intermittent or transient basis, a district  
13 may charge for providing water service to such a customer, regardless  
14 of the amount of water, if any, used by the customer. District  
15 waterworks may include facilities which result in combined water supply  
16 and electric generation, if the electricity generated thereby is a  
17 byproduct of the water supply system. That electricity may be used by  
18 the district or sold to any entity authorized by law to use or  
19 distribute electricity. Electricity is deemed a byproduct when the  
20 electrical generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of water  
21 supply. For such purposes, a district may take, condemn and purchase,  
22 acquire, and retain water from any public or navigable lake, river or  
23 watercourse, or any underflowing water, and by means of aqueducts or  
24 pipeline conduct the same throughout the district and any city or town  
25 therein and carry it along and upon public highways, roads, and  
26 streets, within and without such district. For the purpose of  
27 constructing or laying aqueducts or pipelines, dams, or waterworks or  
28 other necessary structures in storing and retaining water or for any  
29 other lawful purpose such district may occupy the beds and shores up to  
30 the high water mark of any such lake, river, or other watercourse, and  
31 may acquire by purchase or condemnation such property or property  
32 rights or privileges as may be necessary to protect its water supply  
33 from pollution. For the purposes of waterworks which include  
34 facilities for the generation of electricity as a byproduct, nothing in  
35 this section may be construed to authorize a district to condemn  
36 electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or facilities  
37 of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or to acquire  
38 such rights or facilities without the consent of the owner;

1 (4) To purchase and take water from any municipal corporation,  
2 private person, or entity. A district contiguous to Canada may  
3 contract with a Canadian corporation for the purchase of water and for  
4 the construction, purchase, maintenance, and supply of waterworks to  
5 furnish the district and inhabitants thereof and residents of Canada  
6 with an ample supply of water under the terms approved by the board of  
7 commissioners;

8 (5) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and  
9 operate systems of sewers for the purpose of furnishing the district,  
10 the inhabitants thereof, and persons outside the district with an  
11 adequate system of sewers for all uses and purposes, public and  
12 private, including but not limited to on-site sewage disposal  
13 facilities, approved septic tanks or approved septic tank systems, on-  
14 site sanitary sewerage systems, inspection services and maintenance  
15 services for private and public on-site systems, point and nonpoint  
16 water pollution monitoring programs that are directly related to the  
17 sewerage facilities and programs operated by a district, other  
18 facilities, programs, and systems for the collection, interception,  
19 treatment, and disposal of wastewater, and for the control of pollution  
20 from wastewater with full authority to regulate the use and operation  
21 thereof and the service rates to be charged. Under this chapter, after  
22 July 1, 1998, any requirements for pumping the septic tank of an on-  
23 site sewage system should be based, among other things, on actual  
24 measurement of accumulation of sludge and scum by a trained inspector,  
25 trained owner's agent, or trained owner. Training must occur in a  
26 program approved by the state board of health or by a local health  
27 officer. Sewage facilities may include facilities which result in  
28 combined sewage disposal or treatment and electric or methane gas  
29 generation, except that the electricity or methane gas generated  
30 thereby is a byproduct of the system of sewers. Such electricity or  
31 methane gas may be used by the district or sold to any entity  
32 authorized by law to distribute electricity or methane gas.  
33 Electricity and methane gas are deemed byproducts when the electrical  
34 or methane gas generation is subordinate to the primary purpose of  
35 sewage disposal or treatment. The district may also sell surplus  
36 methane gas, which may be produced as a byproduct. For such purposes  
37 a district may conduct sewage throughout the district and throughout  
38 other political subdivisions within the district, and construct and lay

1 sewer pipe along and upon public highways, roads, and streets, within  
2 and without the district, and condemn and purchase or acquire land and  
3 rights-of-way necessary for such sewer pipe. A district may erect  
4 sewage treatment plants within or without the district, and may  
5 acquire, by purchase or condemnation, properties or privileges  
6 necessary to be had to protect any lakes, rivers, or watercourses and  
7 also other areas of land from pollution from its sewers or its sewage  
8 treatment plant. For the purposes of sewage facilities which include  
9 facilities that result in combined sewage disposal or treatment and  
10 electric generation where the electric generation is a byproduct,  
11 nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a district to  
12 condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution rights or  
13 facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute electricity, or  
14 to acquire such rights or facilities without the consent of the owners;

15 (6) The authority to construct, condemn and purchase, add to,  
16 maintain, and operate systems of reclaimed water as authorized by  
17 chapter 90.46 RCW for the purpose of furnishing the district and the  
18 inhabitants thereof with reclaimed water for all authorized uses and  
19 purposes, public and private, including with full authority to regulate  
20 the use and operation thereof and the service rates to be charged. In  
21 compliance with other sections of this chapter, a district may also  
22 provide reclaimed water services to persons outside the district;

23 (7)(a) To construct, condemn and purchase, add to, maintain, and  
24 operate systems of drainage for the benefit and use of the district,  
25 the inhabitants thereof, and persons outside the district with an  
26 adequate system of drainage, including but not limited to facilities  
27 and systems for the collection, interception, treatment, and disposal  
28 of storm or surface waters, and for the protection, preservation, and  
29 rehabilitation of surface and underground waters, and drainage  
30 facilities for public highways, streets, and roads, with full authority  
31 to regulate the use and operation thereof and, except as provided in  
32 (b) of this subsection, the service rates to be charged.

33 (b) The rate a district may charge under this section for storm or  
34 surface water sewer systems or the portion of the rate allocable to the  
35 storm or surface water sewer system of combined sanitary sewage and  
36 storm or surface water sewer systems shall be reduced by a minimum of  
37 ten percent for any new or remodeled commercial building that utilizes  
38 a permissive rainwater harvesting system. Rainwater harvesting systems

1 shall be properly sized to utilize the available roof surface of the  
2 building. The jurisdiction shall consider rate reductions in excess of  
3 ten percent dependent upon the amount of rainwater harvested.

4 (c) Drainage facilities may include natural systems. Drainage  
5 facilities may include facilities which result in combined drainage  
6 facilities and electric generation, except that the electricity  
7 generated thereby is a byproduct of the drainage system. Such  
8 electricity may be used by the district or sold to any entity  
9 authorized by law to distribute electricity. Electricity is deemed a  
10 byproduct when the electrical generation is subordinate to the primary  
11 purpose of drainage collection, disposal, and treatment. For such  
12 purposes, a district may conduct storm or surface water throughout the  
13 district and throughout other political subdivisions within the  
14 district, construct and lay drainage pipe and culverts along and upon  
15 public highways, roads, and streets, within and without the district,  
16 and condemn and purchase or acquire land and rights-of-way necessary  
17 for such drainage systems. A district may provide or erect facilities  
18 and improvements for the treatment and disposal of storm or surface  
19 water within or without the district, and may acquire, by purchase or  
20 condemnation, properties or privileges necessary to be had to protect  
21 any lakes, rivers, or watercourses and also other areas of land from  
22 pollution from storm or surface waters. For the purposes of drainage  
23 facilities which include facilities that also generate electricity as  
24 a byproduct, nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a  
25 district to condemn electric generating, transmission, or distribution  
26 rights or facilities of entities authorized by law to distribute  
27 electricity, or to acquire such rights or facilities without the  
28 consent of the owners;

29 ~~((7))~~ (8) To construct, condemn, acquire, and own buildings and  
30 other necessary district facilities;

31 ~~((8))~~ (9) To compel all property owners within the district  
32 located within an area served by the district's system of sewers to  
33 connect their private drain and sewer systems with the district's  
34 system under such penalty as the commissioners shall prescribe by  
35 resolution. The district may for such purpose enter upon private  
36 property and connect the private drains or sewers with the district  
37 system and the cost thereof shall be charged against the property owner  
38 and shall be a lien upon property served;

1       (~~(9)~~) (10) Where a district contains within its borders, abuts,  
2 or is located adjacent to any lake, stream, groundwater as defined by  
3 RCW 90.44.035, or other waterway within the state of Washington, to  
4 provide for the reduction, minimization, or elimination of pollutants  
5 from those waters in accordance with the district's comprehensive plan,  
6 and to issue general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, local improvement  
7 district bonds, or utility local improvement bonds for the purpose of  
8 paying all or any part of the cost of reducing, minimizing, or  
9 eliminating the pollutants from these waters;

10       (~~(10)~~) (11) Subject to subsection (~~(6)~~) (7) of this section, to  
11 fix rates and charges for water, sewer, reclaimed water, and drain  
12 service supplied and to charge property owners seeking to connect to  
13 the district's systems, as a condition to granting the right to so  
14 connect, in addition to the cost of the connection, such reasonable  
15 connection charge as the board of commissioners shall determine to be  
16 proper in order that those property owners shall bear their equitable  
17 share of the cost of the system. For the purposes of calculating a  
18 connection charge, the board of commissioners shall determine the pro  
19 rata share of the cost of existing facilities and facilities planned  
20 for construction within the next ten years and contained in an adopted  
21 comprehensive plan and other costs borne by the district which are  
22 directly attributable to the improvements required by property owners  
23 seeking to connect to the system. The cost of existing facilities  
24 shall not include those portions of the system which have been donated  
25 or which have been paid for by grants. The connection charge may  
26 include interest charges applied from the date of construction of the  
27 system until the connection, or for a period not to exceed ten years,  
28 whichever is shorter, at a rate commensurate with the rate of interest  
29 applicable to the district at the time of construction or major  
30 rehabilitation of the system, or at the time of installation of the  
31 lines to which the property owner is seeking to connect. In lieu of  
32 requiring the installation of permanent local facilities not planned  
33 for construction by the district, a district may permit connection to  
34 the water and/or sewer systems through temporary facilities installed  
35 at the property owner's expense, provided the property owner pays a  
36 connection charge consistent with the provisions of this chapter and  
37 agrees, in the future, to connect to permanent facilities when they are  
38 installed; or a district may permit connection to the water and/or

1 sewer systems through temporary facilities and collect from property  
2 owners so connecting a proportionate share of the estimated cost of  
3 future local facilities needed to serve the property, as determined by  
4 the district. The amount collected, including interest at a rate  
5 commensurate with the rate of interest applicable to the district at  
6 the time of construction of the temporary facilities, shall be held for  
7 contribution to the construction of the permanent local facilities by  
8 other developers or the district. The amount collected shall be deemed  
9 full satisfaction of the proportionate share of the actual cost of  
10 construction of the permanent local facilities. If the permanent local  
11 facilities are not constructed within fifteen years of the date of  
12 payment, the amount collected, including any accrued interest, shall be  
13 returned to the property owner, according to the records of the county  
14 auditor on the date of return. If the amount collected is returned to  
15 the property owner, and permanent local facilities capable of serving  
16 the property are constructed thereafter, the property owner at the time  
17 of construction of such permanent local facilities shall pay a  
18 proportionate share of the cost of such permanent local facilities, in  
19 addition to reasonable connection charges and other charges authorized  
20 by this section. A district may permit payment of the cost of  
21 connection and the reasonable connection charge to be paid with  
22 interest in installments over a period not exceeding fifteen years.  
23 The county treasurer may charge and collect a fee of three dollars for  
24 each year for the treasurer's services. Those fees shall be a charge  
25 to be included as part of each annual installment, and shall be  
26 credited to the county current expense fund by the county treasurer.  
27 Revenues from connection charges excluding permit fees are to be  
28 considered payments in aid of construction as defined by department of  
29 revenue rule. Rates or charges for on-site inspection and maintenance  
30 services may not be imposed under this chapter on the development,  
31 construction, or reconstruction of property.

32 Before adopting on-site inspection and maintenance utility  
33 services, or incorporating residences into an on-site inspection and  
34 maintenance or sewer utility under this chapter, notification must be  
35 provided, prior to the applicable public hearing, to all residences  
36 within the proposed service area that have on-site systems permitted by  
37 the local health officer. The notice must clearly state that the

1 residence is within the proposed service area and must provide  
2 information on estimated rates or charges that may be imposed for the  
3 service.

4 A water-sewer district shall not provide on-site sewage system  
5 inspection, pumping services, or other maintenance or repair services  
6 under this section using water-sewer district employees unless the on-  
7 site system is connected by a publicly owned collection system to the  
8 water-sewer district's sewerage system, and the on-site system  
9 represents the first step in the sewage disposal process.

10 Except as otherwise provided in RCW 90.03.525, any public entity  
11 and public property, including the state of Washington and state  
12 property, shall be subject to rates and charges for sewer, water, storm  
13 water control, drainage, and street lighting facilities to the same  
14 extent private persons and private property are subject to those rates  
15 and charges that are imposed by districts. In setting those rates and  
16 charges, consideration may be made of in-kind services, such as stream  
17 improvements or donation of property;

18 ~~((+11))~~ (12) To contract with individuals, associations and  
19 corporations, the state of Washington, and the United States;

20 ~~((+12))~~ (13) To employ such persons as are needed to carry out the  
21 district's purposes and fix salaries and any bond requirements for  
22 those employees;

23 ~~((+13))~~ (14) To contract for the provision of engineering, legal,  
24 and other professional services as in the board of commissioner's  
25 discretion is necessary in carrying out their duties;

26 ~~((+14))~~ (15) To sue and be sued;

27 ~~((+15))~~ (16) To loan and borrow funds and to issue bonds and  
28 instruments evidencing indebtedness under chapter 57.20 RCW and other  
29 applicable laws;

30 ~~((+16))~~ (17) To transfer funds, real or personal property,  
31 property interests, or services subject to RCW 57.08.015;

32 ~~((+17))~~ (18) To levy taxes in accordance with this chapter and  
33 chapters 57.04 and 57.20 RCW;

34 ~~((+18))~~ (19) To provide for making local improvements and to levy  
35 and collect special assessments on property benefitted thereby, and for  
36 paying for the same or any portion thereof in accordance with chapter  
37 57.16 RCW;



1       (~~(19)~~) (20) To establish street lighting systems under RCW  
2 57.08.060;

3       (~~(20)~~) (21) To exercise such other powers as are granted to  
4 water-sewer districts by this title or other applicable laws; and

5       (~~(21)~~) (22) To exercise any of the powers granted to cities and  
6 counties with respect to the acquisition, construction, maintenance,  
7 operation of, and fixing rates and charges for waterworks and systems  
8 of sewerage and drainage.

9       **Sec. 2.** RCW 57.08.044 and 1999 c 153 s 7 are each amended to read  
10 as follows:

11       A district may enter into contracts with any county, city, town, or  
12 any other municipal or quasi-municipal corporation, or with any private  
13 person or corporation, for the acquisition, ownership, use, and  
14 operation of any property, facilities, or services, within or without  
15 the district, and necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of  
16 the district. A district may provide water, reclaimed water, sewer,  
17 drainage, or street lighting services to property owners in areas  
18 within or without the limits of the district, except that if the area  
19 to be served is located within another existing district duly  
20 authorized to exercise district powers in that area, then water,  
21 reclaimed water, sewer, drainage, or street lighting service may not be  
22 so provided by contract or otherwise without the consent by resolution  
23 of the board of commissioners of that other district.

24       **Sec. 3.** RCW 57.08.047 and 1999 c 153 s 8 are each amended to read  
25 as follows:

26       The provision of water, reclaimed water, sewer, or drainage service  
27 beyond the boundaries of a special purpose district or city may be  
28 subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter  
29 36.93 RCW.

30       **Sec. 4.** RCW 57.16.010 and 1997 c 447 s 18 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32       Before ordering any improvements or submitting to vote any  
33 proposition for incurring any indebtedness, the district commissioners  
34 shall adopt a general comprehensive plan for the type or types of  
35 facilities the district proposes to provide. A district may prepare a

1 separate general comprehensive plan for each of these services and  
2 other services that districts are permitted to provide, or the district  
3 may combine any or all of its comprehensive plans into a single general  
4 comprehensive plan.

5 (1) For a general comprehensive plan of a water supply system, the  
6 commissioners shall investigate the several portions and sections of  
7 the district for the purpose of determining the present and reasonably  
8 foreseeable future needs thereof; shall examine and investigate,  
9 determine, and select a water supply or water supplies for such  
10 district suitable and adequate for present and reasonably foreseeable  
11 future needs thereof; and shall consider and determine a general system  
12 or plan for acquiring such water supply or water supplies, and the  
13 lands, waters, and water rights and easements necessary therefor, and  
14 for retaining and storing any such waters, and erecting dams,  
15 reservoirs, aqueducts, and pipe lines to convey the same throughout  
16 such district. There may be included as part of the system the  
17 installation of fire hydrants at suitable places throughout the  
18 district. The commissioners shall determine a general comprehensive  
19 plan for distributing such water throughout such portion of the  
20 district as may then reasonably be served by means of subsidiary  
21 aqueducts and pipe lines, and a long-term plan for financing the  
22 planned projects and the method of distributing the cost and expense  
23 thereof, including the creation of local improvement districts or  
24 utility local improvement districts, and shall determine whether the  
25 whole or part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from revenue or  
26 general obligation bonds.

27 (2) For a general comprehensive plan for a sewer system, the  
28 commissioners shall investigate all portions and sections of the  
29 district and select a general comprehensive plan for a sewer system for  
30 the district suitable and adequate for present and reasonably  
31 foreseeable future needs thereof. The general comprehensive plan shall  
32 provide for treatment plants and other methods and services, if any,  
33 for the prevention, control, and reduction of water pollution and for  
34 the treatment and disposal of sewage and industrial and other liquid  
35 wastes now produced or which may reasonably be expected to be produced  
36 within the district and shall, for such portions of the district as may  
37 then reasonably be served, provide for the acquisition or construction  
38 and installation of laterals, trunk sewers, intercepting sewers,

1 syphons, pumping stations or other sewage collection facilities, septic  
2 tanks, septic tank systems or drainfields, and systems for the  
3 transmission and treatment of wastewater. The general comprehensive  
4 plan shall provide a long-term plan for financing the planned projects  
5 and the method of distributing the cost and expense of the sewer system  
6 and services, including the creation of local improvement districts or  
7 utility local improvement districts; and provide whether the whole or  
8 some part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from revenue or  
9 general obligation bonds.

10 (3) For a general comprehensive plan for a reclaimed water system,  
11 the commissioners shall investigate all portions and sections of the  
12 district and select a general comprehensive plan for a reclaimed water  
13 system for the district suitable and adequate for present and  
14 reasonably foreseeable future needs thereof. The general comprehensive  
15 plan must provide for treatment plants or the use of existing treatment  
16 plants and other methods and services, if any, for reclaiming water and  
17 must, for such portions of the district as may then reasonably be  
18 served, provide for a general system or plan for acquiring the lands  
19 and easements necessary therefor, including retaining and storing  
20 reclaimed water, and for the acquisition or construction and  
21 installation of mains, transmission mains, pumping stations, hydrants,  
22 or other facilities and systems for the reclamation and transmission of  
23 reclaimed water throughout such district for such uses, public and  
24 private, as authorized by law. The general comprehensive plan must  
25 provide a long- term plan for financing the planned projects and the  
26 method of distributing the cost and expense of the reclaimed water  
27 system and services, including the creation of local improvement  
28 districts or utility local improvement districts; and provide whether  
29 the whole or some part of the cost and expenses must be paid from  
30 revenue or general obligation bonds.

31 (4) For a general comprehensive plan for a drainage system, the  
32 commissioners shall investigate all portions and sections of the  
33 district and adopt a general comprehensive plan for a drainage system  
34 for the district suitable and adequate for present and future needs  
35 thereof. The general comprehensive plan shall provide for a system to  
36 collect, treat, and dispose of storm water or surface waters, including  
37 use of natural systems and the construction or provision of culverts,  
38 storm water pipes, ponds, and other systems. The general comprehensive

1 plan shall provide for a long-term plan for financing the planned  
2 projects and provide for a method of distributing the cost and expense  
3 of the drainage system, including local improvement districts or  
4 utility local improvement districts, and provide whether the whole or  
5 some part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from revenue or  
6 general obligation bonds.

7 ~~((4))~~ (5) For a general comprehensive plan for street lighting,  
8 the commissioners shall investigate all portions and sections of the  
9 district and adopt a general comprehensive plan for street lighting for  
10 the district suitable and adequate for present and future needs  
11 thereof. The general comprehensive plan shall provide for a system or  
12 systems of street lighting, provide for a long-term plan for financing  
13 the planned projects, and provide for a method of distributing the cost  
14 and expense of the street lighting system, including local improvement  
15 districts or utility local improvement districts, and provide whether  
16 the whole or some part of the cost and expenses shall be paid from  
17 revenue or general obligation bonds.

18 ~~((5))~~ (6) The commissioners may employ such engineering and legal  
19 service as in their discretion is necessary in carrying out their  
20 duties.

21 ~~((6))~~ (7) Any general comprehensive plan or plans shall be  
22 adopted by resolution and submitted to an engineer designated by the  
23 legislative authority of the county in which fifty-one percent or more  
24 of the area of the district is located, and to the director of health  
25 of the county in which the district or any portion thereof is located,  
26 and must be approved in writing by the engineer and director of health,  
27 except that a comprehensive plan relating to street lighting shall not  
28 be submitted to or approved by the director of health. The general  
29 comprehensive plan shall be approved, conditionally approved, or  
30 rejected by the director of health and by the designated engineer  
31 within sixty days of their respective receipt of the plan. However,  
32 this sixty-day time limitation may be extended by the director of  
33 health or engineer for up to an additional sixty days if sufficient  
34 time is not available to review adequately the general comprehensive  
35 plans.

36 Before becoming effective, the general comprehensive plan shall  
37 also be submitted to, and approved by resolution of, the legislative  
38 authority of every county within whose boundaries all or a portion of

1 the district lies. The general comprehensive plan shall be approved,  
2 conditionally approved, or rejected by each of the county legislative  
3 authorities pursuant to the criteria in RCW 57.02.040 for approving the  
4 formation, reorganization, annexation, consolidation, or merger of  
5 districts. The resolution, ordinance, or motion of the legislative  
6 body that rejects the comprehensive plan or a part thereof shall  
7 specifically state in what particular the comprehensive plan or part  
8 thereof rejected fails to meet these criteria. The general  
9 comprehensive plan shall not provide for the extension or location of  
10 facilities that are inconsistent with the requirements of RCW  
11 36.70A.110. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a county from  
12 rejecting a proposed plan because it is in conflict with the criteria  
13 in RCW 57.02.040. Each general comprehensive plan shall be deemed  
14 approved if the county legislative authority fails to reject or  
15 conditionally approve the plan within ninety days of the plan's  
16 submission to the county legislative authority or within thirty days of  
17 a hearing on the plan when the hearing is held within ninety days of  
18 submission to the county legislative authority. However, a county  
19 legislative authority may extend this ninety-day time limitation by up  
20 to an additional ninety days where a finding is made that ninety days  
21 is insufficient to review adequately the general comprehensive plan.  
22 In addition, the commissioners and the county legislative authority may  
23 mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this section.

24 If the district includes portions or all of one or more cities or  
25 towns, the general comprehensive plan shall be submitted also to, and  
26 approved by resolution of, the legislative authorities of the cities  
27 and towns before becoming effective. The general comprehensive plan  
28 shall be deemed approved by the city or town legislative authority if  
29 the city or town legislative authority fails to reject or conditionally  
30 approve the plan within ninety days of the plan's submission to the  
31 city or town or within thirty days of a hearing on the plan when the  
32 hearing is held within ninety days of submission to the county  
33 legislative authority. However, a city or town legislative authority  
34 may extend this time limitation by up to an additional ninety days  
35 where a finding is made that insufficient time exists to adequately  
36 review the general comprehensive plan within these time limitations.  
37 In addition, the commissioners and the city or town legislative

1 authority may mutually agree to an extension of the deadlines in this  
2 section.

3 Before becoming effective, the general comprehensive plan shall be  
4 approved by any state agency whose approval may be required by  
5 applicable law. Before becoming effective, any amendment to,  
6 alteration of, or addition to, a general comprehensive plan shall also  
7 be subject to such approval as if it were a new general comprehensive  
8 plan. However, only if the amendment, alteration, or addition affects  
9 a particular city or town, shall the amendment, alteration, or addition  
10 be subject to approval by such particular city or town governing body.

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