

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5582

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the deadline for a port commission to send new district boundaries to the county auditor when expanding from three commissioners to five.

Sponsors: Senators Hunt and Kuderer.

Senate Committee on State Government & Elections
House Committee on Local Government

Background: Port Districts. Port districts are established in various counties of the state to acquire, construct, maintain, operate, develop, and regulate:

- harbor improvements;
- rail, motor vehicle, water, and air transfer and terminal facilities;
- other commercial transportation, transfer, handling, storage and terminal facilities; and
- industrial improvements.

Port district powers are exercised through a port commission. With some exceptions, port districts are divided into commissioner districts, and candidates for each district must reside in that district. Voters from each district nominate candidates, who then run in the general election.

Port Commission Expansion. Port commissions are set at three members, but can be increased to five by voter initiative or resolution of the port commission. If the port commission expands its membership to five members, two of the commissioner districts may include the entire port district.

If the resolution of a ballot measure expanding the port commission's membership creates five commissioner districts, two provisions of law provide deadlines for the creation of new districts. One provision requires the district boundaries to be submitted to the county auditor within 120 days of voter approval of commission expansion. Another provision requires that the new district boundaries be drawn by June 1st of the year in which the new

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commissioner positions will be elected.

Summary: Port districts which are increasing from three commissioners to five commissioners must divide into new commissioner districts by January 1st of the year in which the new commissioners will be elected.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0
House	95	0

Effective: June 9, 2022