HOUSE BILL REPORT
SSB 6091

As Passed House - Amended:
February 27, 1996

Title: An act relating to combining water and sewer districts.

Brief Description: Converting water and sewer districts into water-sewer districts.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Government Operations (originally sponsored by Senators Haugen, Winsley, Sheldon, Drew, McCaslin, Long, Hale, Snyder, Heavey and Sellar).

Brief History:
  Committee Activity:
    Government Operations: 2/20/96, 2/23/96 [DPA].
  Floor Activity:
    Passed House - Amended: 2/27/96, 98-0.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 15 members: Representatives Reams, Chairman; Cairnes, Vice Chairman; Goldsmith, Vice Chairman; Rust, Ranking Minority Member; Scott, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Conway; R. Fisher; Hargrove; Honeyford; Hymes; Mulliken; Scheuerman; D. Schmidt; Van Luven and Wolfe.

Staff: Steve Lundin (786-7127).

Background: Statutes authorizing the creation of water districts were enacted in 1913. Statutes authorizing the creation of sewer districts were enacted in 1941. With a few exceptions these two sets of statutes are identical. It appears that the sewer district enabling legislation in 1941 was drafted using the basic text of water district laws, but substituted "sewer" for "water." In most instances, any change in water the district laws since 1941 was made in sewer district laws, and vice versa.

Water districts are authorized to provide water supply, street lighting, and fire protection services and facilities. It appears that no water district provides fire protection services and facilities. In addition, a water district is authorized to provide sewer (sanitary and stormwater) facilities under the sewer district laws.

Sewer districts are authorized to provide sewer (sanitary and stormwater) facilities. In addition, a sewer district is authorized to provide water supply facilities under the water district laws.

The primary differences between the powers of a sewer district and water district are as follows: