

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 1641

As Reported By House Committee On:
Government Administration

Title: An act relating to conforming the authority for water system development charges with a city's authority.

Brief Description: Conforming a water district's authority for development charges with a city's authority.

Sponsors: Representatives Dunn, D. Sommers, Scott, Wolfe, D. Schmidt, Wensman and Reams.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Government Administration: 2/14/97, 2/25/97 [DP].

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives D. Schmidt, Chairman; D. Sommers, Vice Chairman; Scott, Ranking Minority Member; Gardner, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Doumit; Dunn; Dunshee; Reams; L. Thomas; Wensman and Wolfe.

Staff: Michael Spiro (786-5793).

Background: A water-sewer district may charge a property owner seeking to connect to the district's water, sewer, or drainage system a reasonable connection charge. The connection charge may include interest, which is to be applied from the date of construction of the system until the connection is made or for a period not to exceed 10 years, whichever is shorter.

A city or town may charge a property owner seeking to connect to its water or sewer system a reasonable connection charge. The connection charge may include interest, which is to be applied from the date of construction of the system until the connection is made or for a period not to exceed 10 years.

Summary of Bill: More flexibility is provided for a water-sewer district to calculate connection charge interest on property owners who seek to connect to the district's water, sewer, or drainage system. A water-sewer district no longer must choose

between charging interest from the date of construction of the system until the connection is made or for a period not to exceed 10 years, whichever is shorter. Instead, the water-sewer district now may charge interest from the date of construction of the system until the connection is made.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: There should be a level playing field so that all people are paying the same proportionate amount for connecting to a water or sewer system. The 10-year limit is arbitrary and should be removed. This bill would put water-sewer districts on the same footing as others who provide the same services.

Testimony Against: None.

Testified: Steve Lindstrom, Sno-King Water District Coalition; and Joe Daniels, Washington Association of Sewer/Water Districts.