

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

Bill No. HB 1212

Corectionse.combiningwater/sewedists
Brieftitle

PubliArg: 2/12/97

Reps.D. Schmidt/Scott
Sponsor

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BACKGROUND:

Water districts are units of local government initially authorized to be created in 1913, that may provide potable water facilities, sanitary sewers, drainage facilities, and street lighting. Sewer districts are units of local government initially authorized to be created in 1941, that may provide sanitary sewers, drainage facilities, and potable water facilities. Sewer district laws are almost identical with water district laws.

Legislation was enacted in 1996 consolidating water district laws and sewer district laws and making a number of technical changes to these laws. Among other changes, the term sewer system, which had been defined to include both sanitary sewers and drainage systems, was altered to only apply to sanitary sewer systems and separate provisions were added for drainage systems. These units of local government were renamed as water-sewer districts. This legislation had a delayed effective date until July 1, 1997.

SUMMARY:

A variety of changes are made relating to the consolidation of water district laws with sewer district laws.

Provisions relating to the process of creating new water-sewer districts are clarified and the precise wording of the ballot propositions is deleted.

The distinction between sanitary sewer systems and drainage systems, that was initiated in the 1996 legislation consolidating sewer districts and water district statutes, is continued and various laws are amended to make this distinction.

It is clarified that a purchase of materials, supplies, or equipment with a value of from \$10,000 to less than \$50,000 is made using a general vendor list process provided for a number of local governments.

Continued

Rather than describing the super-majority requirement in the constitution authorized debt and excess levies or retirement debt, the constitutional provisions cited.

References to either water districts or sewer districts are altered to water-sewer districts.-

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 1997.