

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Olympia Washington

BilAnalysis

BillNo. SSB 5684

Decreasing fire protection district commissioners
Brief title

Public Arg: 3/26/97

Comm. Govt Op. (Sens Horn/Haugen/Wood)
Sponsor

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BACKGROUND:

Every fire protection district is managed by a three or five member board of elected commissioners. The board of commissioners manages and conducts the business affairs of the district including executing contracts and adopting rules to govern the district. Fire commissioners may be elected by commissioner district or at-large.

Every fire protection district maintaining a fire department that consists wholly of full-time, fully-paid personnel must be managed by a board of five fire commissioners.

All other fire protection district boards must be made up of three commissioners initially, but may expand to five commissioners under certain circumstances.

SUMMARY

Most fire protection district boards made up of five commissioners may be decreased to three commissioners if the electorate of the district approves such a decrease in a special election. A special election must be called if the board of commissioner passes a resolution calling for the decrease or if the board is presented with a petition signed by 10 percent of the registered voters residing in the district calling for a decrease.

If the fire protection district board that would be decreased by the election is a commissioner district, the board must pass a resolution on either redistricting three districts or to eliminate commissioner districts prior to the special election.

Boards of commissioners of fire protection districts maintaining a fire department that consists wholly of full-time, fully-paid personnel are not subject to this procedure and may not be decreased to three commissioners.

FISCAL NOTE: Not Requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bills passed.